

THE *9 Miles*
Most delectable History

of REYNARD the
Fox.

Newly Corrected and purged from all
grossnesse, in phrase and Matter.

*As also Augmented and Inlarged, with sundry excellent
Morals and Expositions upon every severall
Chapter.*



LONDON,
Printed by Elizabeth All-de, dwelling neere
Christ-Church. 1629.

THE
Most delectable History

of RICHARD

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Newly Continued and enlarged from all
the most authentic and latest

Accounts of the several Kingdoms of
Africa, Asia, Europe, and America



LONDON

Printed by J. B. Smith, in the Strand

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The Epistle to the Reader.

Hou hast here (courteous and friendly Reader) the pleasant and delightfull History of *Reynard* the Fox, which in an humble and lowe stile (couched to the natures of Beasts it treateth on) beareth in it much excellent Morallitie and hidden wisdome , worthy both thy regard in reading, and thine application in the course & comencement of thy life & actions; for the ayme at which it bendeth is the ouerthrowne of vice and the advancement of the good and vertuous.

Now forasmuch as hitherto it hath flowne into the world (like *Sybilla's* loose papers) couered with much ob-

The Epistle to the Reader.

scurity and darkenesse, I haue for thy more ease and contentment, to euery seuerall Chapter annexed the Morals and expositions of such darke places, as may hold thy Iudgement in seeking to winde out of a labyrinth so darke and curious; A labour which I doubt not but will proue both pleasant and wholesome, since as a friendly guide it will keepe thy meditations from wandering astray; and as a pleasant companion hold thee with such delightfull discourse, that thy journey therein will neither be long nor inkesome: at which end if it arrīue with a safe safety as it is faithfully and truly intended, I haue the summe of my wishes, and thy selfe the prosperity, both of this and other mens endeauours.

Farewell.

THE



THE PLEASANT HIS- TORY, OF *Reynard* the Fox.

CHAP. i.

How the *Lyon* Proclaimed a solemne Feast at his Court, and how
Isegrime the Wolfe and his Wife, and *Curtise* the Hound, made
their first complaints of *Reynard* the Fox.



ABOUT the Feast of Pentecost (which is com-
monly called Whitson-tide) when the woods are
in their lusty-hood and gallantry, and every
Tree clothed in the greene and white linsey of
glorious leaues and sweet smelling blossomes,
and the earth covered in her fairest mantle of flowers, which
the Birdes with much toy entertains with the delight of their
harmonious songs.

Even at this time and entrance of the lusty Spring, the
Lyon the Royall King of Beasts, to celebrate this holy feast-
time with all triumphant ceremony, intends to keep open
Court at his great palace of Sunden, and to that end (by solemn
Proclamations) makes knowne over all his Kingdome to all
Beasts whatsoeuer, that upon paine to be held contemptuous,
every one should resort to that great celebration, so that within
two dayes after (at the time prefixed) at Beasts both great and

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The pleasant History

small came in infinit multitudes to the Court, onely Reynard the Fox excepted, who knew himselfe guilty in so many trespasses against many Beasts, that his comming thither must needs haue put his life in great hazard and danger.



Now when the King had assembled all his Court together, there were few Beasts found but made their severall Complaint against the Fox, but especially Isegrim the Wolfe, who being the first and principallest complainant, came with all his Linage and kindred, and standing before the King, said in this manner.

My dread and dearest soueraigne Lord the King, I humbly beseech you that from the height and strength of your great power, and the multitude of your mercies, you will be pleased to take pittie on the great trespasses, and insufferable injuries which that unworthy creature Reynard the Fox hath done to me, my wife, and our whole family: of which to give your highnes some taste, first know (if it please your Majesty) that this

Reynard

of Reynard the Fox.



Reynard came into my house by violence and against the wil of my wife, where finding my children lost in their quiet couch,

he there be-pist them, in so rancie a manner that with the sharpnes of his byrne they fell instantly blinde, so; this offence a day was set and appointed, whersin Reynard should come to excuse himselfe, and to take a solemne oath that he was guiltlesse of that high iniury: but as soone as the Woke was tenderd before him, (he that well knew his owne guiltines) refused to sweare, and ran instantly into his hole, both in contempt of your Pa- tency and your lawer. This (my dread Lord) many of the noblest Beasts know which now are resident in your Court: For hath this a'lone boundd his malice, but in many other things he hath trespass against me, which to relate, neither the time nor your highnes patience would give sufferaunce there- unto: suffice it mine iniuries are so great that none can expat them, and the shame and villany he hath done to my wife is such, that I can neither lye nor suffer it unrenenged, but I must expect from him amends, and from your Palety metcy.

When

Howsoever a vicious man periwade him self to escape punishment by absenting himselfe from the presence of the Maie- stie, yet he deceives him- selfe & by his contempt, a- nimates his enemies to be more bolde in their com- plaints against him: as ap- pears heere

The pleasant History

by the Wolfe. When the Wolfe had spoken these words, there stood by him a little Hound whose name was Curtille, who stepping forth made likewise a grievous complaint, (unto the King) against the Foxe, saying, that in the extreame cold season of the Winter, when the frost was most violent, he being halfe starved and detayned from all manner of prey, had no more meat left him to sustaine his life then one pore Pudding: which Pudding (he said) Reynard had most vniustly taken away from him.

opportunity to say the worst he could against him, & by his example makes others of a full nature to do the like. And therefore let no wise man shrinke from his iust trial, but either defend his owne innocence, or else submit to mercy: for dead men and absent, finde sleeke Adversaries.



of Reynard the Fox.

But the Wound could hardly let these wordes fly from his lippes, when with a fierie and angry countenance, in sprang Tybert the Cat amongst them, and falling downe before the King, said; My Lord the King, I must confesse the Fox is here grievously complained upon, yet were other Beasts actions searcht, each would haue enough to doe so; his owne clatering. Touching the complaint of Curtiue the Wound, it was an offence committed many yeares agoe, and though I my selfe complaine of no injury, yet was the Pudding mine and not his so; I wasnet by night out of a Pill when the Miller lay asleepe. so that if Curtiue could challenge any share thereof, it must be from mine interest.

When Panther heard these wordes of the Cat, he stood forth and said, Doe you imagine Tybert, that it were a iust or a good course that Reynard should not be complained upon? why the whole world knows, he is a murderer, a rauisher and a theefe, and that indeed he loueth not truly any creature, no not his selfe, but would suffer his highnes to lose both Honour and Renown, so that he might thereby attaine to himselfe but so much as the legg of a fatted Hen: I shall tell you truely that I saw him doe yesterday to Kyward the Hare, that now standeth in the Kings protection: he promised vnto Kyward, that hee would teache him his Credo and make him a good Chaplaine, he made him come sit betwene his legges and sing and cry aloude Credo, Credo my way say thereby and I heard the song: then coming neerer, I found that Mr. Reynard had left hi first note and song, and began to play his old deceit: so; he had caught Kyward by the throte and had I not at that time come, hee had taken his life also, as you may see by the fresh wound on Kyward at this present. O my Lord the King, if you suffer this unpunished and let him goe quit that hath thus broken your peace, and prophain'd your dignity, and doing no right according to the iudgement of your lawes, your Princeps children many yeares hereafter shall heare the number of his euill; certainly Panther (said Isegrim) you say true, and it is fit they receiue the benefit of Justice that desire to liue in peace.

The pleasant History

CHAP. 2.

How Grimbard the Brocke spake for Reynard before the King.

Then spake Grimbard the Brocke (that was Reynards
sisters Sonne) being much moued with anger: Ife grim



of Reynard the Fox.

you are malicious, and it is a common Proverb Malice neuer spake well: what can you say against my kinsman Reynard? I would you durst adventure, that which of you had most injured one another, might dye the death, and be hangd as a felon: I tell you, were he here in the Court, and stand in the things favour as you are, it would be much to little satisfaction for you to aske him mercy: you haue many times bitten and tozned my kinsman with your venemous teth, and oftner much then I can reckon, yet some I will call by to my remembrance.

Haue you forgot how you cheated him with the Plaise which he thowd awne from the Cart, when you followed a lufe for feare, yet you deuoured the good Plaise alone, and gaue him no more but the great bones which you could not eate your selfe: the like you did with the fat fitch of Bacon, whose thaste was so good that your selfe alone eate it by, and when my bnckle asked his part, you answered him with scozne, saie young man thou shalt haue thy share, but he got not any thing, albeit he wanne the Bacon with great feare and hazard: for the owner came, and caught my kinsman in a sacke, from whence he hardly escap'd with life: many of these injuries hath Isegim done to Reynard, which I beseech your Lordships Judge if they be sufferable: againe he complaineth that my kinsman hath wrong'd him in his wife, 'tis true, and I confesse Reynard hath laine with her, yet it was seauen yeares before Isegim did wed her, and if my bnckle out of courtesie did her a pleasure, what was that to him? she was sone healed of the soze, nor ought him to complaine of a thing not belonging to him; wisdoms would haue concealed it, for what credit gets he by the slander of his wife, especially when she is vnagriened.

Now comes Kyward the Ware with his complaint, which to me seemes but a trifle, for if he will learne to reade, and read not his lesson aright, who will blame the schoule-master Reynard if he giue him due correction: for if scholers be not beaten and chastised they will neuer learne.

Lastly complaineth Curuse that he with great paine had

The Moral.

Woe is neuer without his aduocate, and be a man neuer so lewde, yet hee shall still finde one or other to plead for him especially where ther is either greatness or wealth in the offender, or any alliance of blood to those in fauour, as appears here by the Brock, which pleads for the Foxe, first because he was of his kinne, & next he was rich & able to pleasure him; lastly, here is to bee obserued the insinuation of the Aduocate, excusing the Foxes faults with a new forme of penitence, cloaking the ill he had don with zeale & hypocrisie.

The pleasant History

the which no-
thing sooner
brings a good
man to be-
liefe and for-
giuenes.

gotten a Budding in the winter, being a season in which be-
duals are hard to finde me thinke silence would haue become
him better, for he had stollen it, and Male quæstisti & male per-
didisti, 'tis fit it be euill lost toas euill woonne : who can blame
Reynard to take stolne goods from a theefe? It is reason that
he which vnderstands the Law and can discerne right, being
of great and high birth as my kinsman is, doe right vnto the
law. Nay had he hang'd by Curtise when he toke him with the
manner he had offended none but the King in doing Justice
without leaue ; wherefore for respect to his Maiestie hee did it
not, though he reapt little thanks for his labour : alas how
doe these complaints hurt him ? mine vncle is a Gentleman
and a true man, nor can he endure falsehood, he doth nothing
without the counsaile of his Wised : and I asseure since my
Lord the King proclaimed his peace, he neuer thought to hurt
any man, for he eateth but once a day, he liueth as a Recluse,
he chastiseth his body and weareth a shirt of haires cloth : it is
about a yeare since he ate any flesh (as I haue been truly in-
formed by them which came but yesterday from him) he hath
forsaken his castle Malleopardus and abandon'd all royaltie, a
poore Hermitage retaines him hunting he hath forsworne, and
his wealth he hath scattered, lining onely by Almes and good
mens charitties, doing infinite penance for his sinnes, so that he
is become pale and leane with praying, and fasting, for he
would salue be with God.

Thus whilst Grimbard his nephew stood preaching, they
perceiued comming downe the hill vnto them, stout Chaun-
teclere the Cocke, who brought vpon a Beere a dead Urne,
of whom Reynard had bitten off the head, and was brought
to the King to haue knowledge thereof.

CHAP. 3.

How Chaunteclere the Cocke complained of Reynard
the Fox.

CHAVNTECLEERE marched forthmost, and smote pitteously his
hands and feathers, whilst on either side the Beere went
two

of Reynard the Fox.



two so joyfull Wens, the one was Tancart, the other the good
Wen Cragant, being two of the fairest Wens betwene Hol-
land and Arden; these Wens bore each of them a straight bright
burning Taper, and these Wennes were sisters to Coppell
(which lay dead on the Wene) and in their marching they cried
piteously, alack and well-a-day for the death of Coppell our

The pleasant History

The Morall.

When wicked men cannot expasse their wickednes by ft ong hand, or violence against their enemies, then they study deceits & shifts to entangle them. of all which none is so powerfull as the shew of friendship, & the cloke of Religion; for that working vpon the easie beliefe of the simple, makes them many times shippe themselves into those rough seas, whence there is no help but shipwrack, as the foolish Cocke did to beleeue the subtil Foxe. Also in this a man may see that though an euill man may bee now and then extolled of some

deare sister. Two young Hens bare the Biers, which cackled so heavily, and wept so loud for the death of Coppel their mother, that the hills gaue an echo to their clamour: thus being come befoze the King, Chauntecleere kneeling downe, spake in this manner:

Most mercifull and my great Lord the King, vouchsafe I beseech you to heare our complaint, and redresse those iniuries, which Reynard hath vniustly done to me, and my children that here stand weeping; so; so it is (most mighty Sir) that in the beginning of Aprill, when the weather was faire, I being then in the height of my pryde and glory, because of the great stroke and linage I came of, as also in that I had eight valiant sonnes, and seauen faire daughters, which my wife had hatched, all which were strong and fat, and walked in a yard well walled and fenced round about, where in they had in several sheds so; their guard like stout mastiffe dogges, which had tozme the skinned of many wilde Beasts, so that my children feared not any euil which might happen vnto them: But Reynard that false and dissembling traitor, enuiyng their happy fortune, because of their safety, many times assailed the walls, and gaue such dangerous assaults, that the Dogges diuers times were let forth vnto him, and hunted him away; yea once they light vpon him, and bit him, and made him pay the price for his theft, as his tozme skinned witnesseth, yet nevertheless he escaped, the more was the pitty, yet we were quit of his trouble a great while after: at last he came in the likeness of an Hermite, and brought me a letter to read, sealed with your Maiesties Beale, in which I found written, that your Highnesse had made peace throughout all your Realme, and that no manner of Beast or Fowle should doe iniurie one to another, affirming vnto me, that for his owne part he was become a Honke or Cloystered Recluse, vowing to performe a dayly penance for his sinnes; shewing vnto me his beads, his bowes, and the haire shirt next to his skinned, saying in humble wise vnto me, Wit Chauntecleere, neuer henceforth be afraid of me, for I haue vowed neuer more to eat flesh.

of Reynard the Fox.



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I am now waxt olde, and would onely remember my soule,
therefore I take my leave, for I haue yet my mans and my
euensong to say: which spoke, he departed, saying his Credo
as he went, and layde him downe vnder a Pathorne: at this
I was so exceeding glad, that I toke no hede, but went and
cloaked my chylzen together, and walked without the wall,
which

The pleasant History

which I shall ever rue, for false Reynard lying vnder a bush, came creeping betwixt vs and the gate, and suddenly surprised one of my children, which he trust vpon in his male, and bore away to my great sorrow, for having tasted the sweetness of our flesh, neither Hunter, nor Hound can protect or keepe him from vs: night and day he waites vpon vs with that greedines, that of sixteen of my children he hath lost me but foure vnslaughtered, and yesterday Coppell my daughter (which he receiued dead on this Morn) was (after her murder) by a kenneil of Hounds rescued from him: This is my complaint, and this I leave to your highnes mercy to take pittie of me and the losse of my faire children.

CHAP. 4.

The Kings answer to the *Cockes* Complaint, and how they sung the *Dirge*.

The Morall.

Here those that excuse bad actions may see how such offences returne to disgrace because euill mens vices being disclosed the excuses are their shames that make them; as it hapned now to the Brock. Also in the Lyon may be scene the effects of a good disposition which is expressed in the

THE King spake the King, sir Guimbard heare you this of your Uncle the Recluse: he hath fasted and prayed well, but beleue it if I liue a yeare he shall dearly abide it: as for you Chauntecleere your complaint is heard and shall be cured: to your daughter that is dead we will giue the rights of buriall, and with solemne Dirges bring her to the earth with worship; which finished, we will consult with our Lords how to doe you right and Justice against the murderer. When began the Placebo Domine with all the verses belonging to it, which are too many to recite; and as sone as the Dirge was done, the body was Interred and vpon it a faire Marble Stone laide being polished as bright as glasse: in which was engraued in great letters, this inscription following. Coppell Chauntecleeres daughter whom Reynard the Fox hath slayne, lyeth heere buried, moune thou that readeest it, for her death was vniust and lamentable. After this the King sent for his Lords and wisest Counsaillers to consult how this foule murder of Reynards might be punished. In the end it was concluded that Reynard should be sent for, and without excuse to appeare before the King, to answer these trespasses should

of Reynard the Fox.



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should be objected against him, and that this message should be
delivered by Bruine the Bears: to all this the King gave con-
sent, and calling him before him said, sir Bruine, it is our pleasure
that you deliver this message, yet in the delivery thereof have
great regard to your selfe, for Reynard is full of policy and
knoweth how to dissemble, flatter and betray: he hath a world
of snares to intangle you withall, and without great exercise
of iudgement, will make a scape and mocke of the best wisdom

The pleasant History

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The pleasant History

breathing: My Lord (answered Sir Bruine) let me alone with Reynard, I am not such a truant in discretib. to become a mocke to his knavery: and thus full of iollity the Beare departed, if he returne be as iouiall, there is no feare in his well speeding.

CHAP. 5.

How *Bruine* the Beare sped with *Reynard* the Fox.



of Reynard the Fox.

THE next morning away went Bruine the Bear in quest
of the Fox, armed against all plots of deceit whatsoever,
and as he came through a darke Forrest, in which Reynard
had a by path, which he vsed when he was hunted, he saw
a high mountaine, ouer which he must passe to goe to Malle-
pardus for though Reynard haue many houses, yet Mallepar-
dus is his chiefest and most annient Castle, and in it he lay
both for defence and ease: Now at last when Bruine was
come to Mallepardus, he found the gates close shut, at which
after he had knocked (sitting on his tayle) he called aloud,
Sir Reynard are you at home? I am Bruine your kinsman,
whom the King hath sent to summon you to the Court, to
answer many foule accusations exhibited against you, and
hath taken a great voeue, that if you faile to appeare to this
summon, that your life shall answer your contempt, and your
goods and honours shall be confiscate at his Highnes mercy:
Wherefore saice kinsman be aduised by your friend, and goe
with me to the Court to shunne the daunger that else will fall
vpon you. Reynard lying close by the gate (as his custome
was for the warme Sunne sake) hearing those words de-
parted into one of his holes, for Mallepardus is full of ma-
ny intricate and curious Rumes, (which labryynth wise he
could passe through when either his daunger or the benefit of
any prey required the same) where meditating a while with
himselfe how he might counterplot and bring the Bear to
disgrace (whom he knew loued him not and himselfe to ho-
nour, at last he came forth, and said, deare vncle Bruine, you
are exceeding welcome, pardon my slownesse in coming;
for at your first speech I was saying my Queen-song: and de-
uotion must not be neglected: beleeue me he hath done you no
good seruice, nor doe I thanke him which hath sent you this
weary and long iourney, in which your much sweat and
toyle farre exceeds the worth of the labour: certainly had you
not come, I had to morrow bene at the Court of mine owne
accoꝝ, yet at this time my sorrow is much lessened, in as
much as your comming at this present may retorne me dou-
ble benefit: alas cousin, could his paltry kinde no meaner a

The pleasant History



The Morall.

In this encounter betwene the Fox and the Beare, is expressed the dissimulation of two wicked persons each plotting to doe the other

messenger then your noble selfe to employ in these triuall affaires & truly it appeares strange to me; especially since next his royall selfe, you are of greatest renowne both in Blood and riches: so; my part I would wee were both at Court; so; I feare our Journey will be exceeding troublesome: so; to speake troth, since I made mine abstinence from flesh, I haue eaten such strange new meates, that my body is very much distempered and swelleth as if it would breake: Alas deare Cousin (said the Beare) what meat is that which maketh you so ill? Uncle (answered he) what will it profit you to know: the meate was simple and meane; we poore men are no Lords you know. but eate that for necessity which others eate for wantonnesse: yet not to delay you; that which I eate was honny combes great, full and most pleasant, to which compelled by hunger I eate too vnrmeasureable, and am thereby infinitely distempered. Ha (quoth Bruine) honny combes: doe you make such light respect of them Apprehew: why it is meate for the greatest Emperour in the world: *Salis Apprehew,*

of Reynard the Fox.

phew, helpe me but to some of that honey, and command me
 whilst I live; for one little part thereof I will be your servant
 enetastingly: Soe said the Fox (Uncle, you but test with
 me: but test with you (replied Bruine) both in my heart then,
 for I am in that serious earnest, that for one lick therat you
 shall make me the faithfull of all your kindred. Pay (said the
 Fox) if you be in earnest, then know I will bring you where
 so much is, that ten of you shall not be able to deuoure it at a
 meale, onely for your loue sake, which aboue all things I de-
 sire Uncle. Not ten of vs (said the Beare) it is impossible,
 for had I all the honey betwixt Hybla and Portugall, yet I
 could in a short space eate it all my selfe: Then know Uncle
 (quoth the Fox, that nere at hand here dwelleth a Husband-
 man named Lanfert, who is master of so much honey, that you
 cannot consume in seauen yeares, which for your loue & friend-
 ship sake I will put into your safe possession. Bruine mad
 vpon the honey, swoze, that to haue but one good meale thereof,
 he would not onely be his faithfull friend, but also stop the
 mouthes of all his aduersaries: Reynard smiting at his easie
 beliefe, said, if you wil haue seauen tonnes Uncle: on that haue
 it; these wordes pleased the Beare so wel, and made him so plea-
 sant, that he could not stand for laughing.

Well thought the Fox this is good fortune, sure I will leade
 him where he shall laugh more measurably: and then said,
 Uncle we must delay no time and I will spare no paine for
 your sake, which for none of my kinne I would performe;
 the Beare gave him many thanks, and so away they went,
 the Fox promising him as much honey as he could beare, but
 he meant as many strokes as he could vndergoe: in the end
 they came to Lanferts house, the sight whereof made the Beare
 reioyce. This Lanfert was a stout and lusty Carpenter, who
 the other day had brought into his yard a great Oake, which
 (as their manner is) he began to cleave, and had stricke into it
 two wedges, in such wise, that the cleft stood a great way
 open, at which the Fox reioyced much, for it was answerable
 to his wish; so that with a laughing countenance he said to the
 Beare. Behold now deare Uncle, and be carefull of your
 selfe,

mischief,
 wherein
 though the
 wisest com-
 ly get the vi-
 ctory at the
 first, yet the
 rust cause in
 the end pre-
 uaileth in the
 Beares gree-
 din s to eate
 honey is ex-
 p est, the las-
 cious in cō-
 stancie of a
 loole & vn e-
 strained na-
 ture, that for
 a minutes in-
 ioying of
 their own de-
 lights, quite
 forget the bu-
 sinesse, and
 cares they
 haue in hand.
 In the Fox is
 exprest the
 cunning of
 wisdom, which euer
 casts out (to
 loosenatures)
 these raytes
 of delig,
 which being
 swallowed
 with gree-
 nesse, do euer
 choake the
 swallower, as
 appeareth by
 the Beare,
 who is not

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only wounded, and in danger of his life, but also made a mocke and scorne to his enemies. Also be the cruelty vsed on the Beare by the common people, is shewed, how when an ill man is once snared in his vices, how euery one of what degree soeuer from the highest to the lowest, are ready to prosecute and enuenge themselves for the ills they haue receiued.



selfe, for within this tree is so much honey, that it is unmeasurable, for if you can get into it, yet good Uncle eate moderately: for albeit the combs are sweet and good, yet a surfeit is dangerous, and may be troublesome to your body. which I would not for a world, since no harme can come to you, but must be my dishonour. So;row not for me, **Stephen Reynard** (said

of Reynard the Fox.

said the Beare) noz thinke me such a foole that I cannot tenuer mine appetite: it is true my best Winchle, I was too bold, I pray you enter in at the end, and you shall finde your desire. The Beare with all haste entred the tree, with his two sate forward, and thrust his head into the cleft quite ouer the eares, which when the Fox perceiued, he instantly ranne and puld the wedges out of the tree, so that he lockt the Beare fast therein, and then neither flattery noz anger auailed the Beare, for the Nephew had by his deceit brought the Winchle into so safe a prison, that it was impossible by any Art to free himselfe of the same: alas what profited now his great strength and valour? why they were but causes of moze vexation: and finding himselfe destitute of all reliefe, he began to howle and bray, and with scratching and tomling to make such a noise, that Lanfert amazed came hastily out of his house, hauing in his hand a sharpe hoke, whilist the Beare lay wallowing and roaring within the tree, which the Fox a farre off seeing, he said to the Beare in scoyne, is that honey good (Winchle) which



The pleasant History

you eate, how doe you, eate no too much I beseech you: pleasant things are apt to surfeit, and you may hinder your journey to the Court, when Lanfert commeth (if your belly be full) he will give you drinke to digest it, and wash it downe your throte: and hauing thus said, he went to wards his Castell; But by this time, Lanfert finding the Beare fast taken in the tree: he ran to his neighbours and desired them to come into his yard, for there was a Beare fast taken there; which being noysed through all the Towne, there was neither man, nor woman, nor childe but ranne thither, some with one weapon, and some with another; as Goades, Axes, Bowmestanes, or what they could gather vp: the Priest had the handle of the Crosse, the Clarke the holy water spyncke, and the Priests wife Dame Iullocke with her Distaffe, for she was then spinning: nay the olde Widdowes came that had nere a tooth in their heads. This army put Bruine into a great feare, being none but himselfe to withstand them, and hearing the clamour of the noyse which came thundring vpon him, he was assailed and pulled so extremely that he got out his head, but left behinde him all the skynne, and his eares also: in so much that neuer creature beheld a fouler or more deformed Beast; for the blood couering all his face, and his hands leauing the claws and skin behynd them, nothing remained but ugliness; 'twas an ill market the Beare came too, for he lost both motion and sight, taste and eyes: but notwithstanding this torment, Lanfert, the Priest, and the whole Parish came vpon him, and so becausell'd him about his body part, that it might well be a warning to all in his misery, to know that euer the weakest shall fill goe most to the walles: This the Beare found by experience, for every one exercised the height of their furies vpon him; euen Houghlin with the crooked legges, and Ludolfe with the long broad nose, the one with a Leaden malle, and th'other with an yron whip, all to be lashed poore sir Bruine, not so much but sir Bertolfe with the long fingers, Lanfret and Otram did him more annoyance then all the rest, the one hauing a sharpe Welsh hoke, the other a crooked staffe well leaded at the end, which he vsed to play at stab ball with,

all,

of Reynard the Fox.

all, there was Birkin, and Annes-Ablequake, Bane the Priest
with his staffe, and Dame Iullocke his wife, all these so be-
hoor'd the Beare, that his life was in great danger: the poore
Beare in this masaker late and sigh'd extremely, groaning
vnder the burthen of their stroakes, of which Lanfers were the
greatest and thundered most dreadfully, so; Dame Podge of
Calport was his Mother, & his father was Marob the Staple-
maker, a passing stout man when he was alone: Bruine recei-
ued of them many showers of stones, till Lanfers Brother rush-
ing before the rest with a staffe, strooke the Beare in the head
such a blowe, that he could neither heare nor see, so that awa-
king from the astonishment, the Beare lept into the River
adoyning, though a cluster of wiues there standing toget her,
of which hee threw diuers into the water which was large and
deepe, amongst whom the Parsons wife was one; which the
Parson seeing how she floated like a sea-mew, he left striking
the Beare, and cried to the rest of the company, helpe, oh helpe
Dame Iullocke is in the water, helpe both men and women,
for whosoener saues her, I giue free pardon of all their sinnes
and transgressions, and remit all penance imposed whatsoener:
this heart. euery one left the Beare to helpe Dame Iullocke,
which as soone as the Beare saw, he cut the streame and swam
away as fast as he could, but the Priest with a great noise
pursued him, crying in his rage; turne villaine that I may be
reuenged of thee, but the Beare swam in the strength of the
streame and respected not his calling, so; he was pponde that he
was so escaped from them: onely he bitterly curst the Wony-
tree and the yore, which had not onely betray'd him, but had
made him lose his hode from his face, and his gloves from his
fingers: in this sort he swam some thre miles downe the
water, in which time he grew so weary that he went on land to
get ease, where blood trickling downe his face, he groined, sigh'd,
and drew his breath so short as if his last houre had beene ex-
piring: Now whilst these things were in doing, the Foxe in
his way home stole a fat Hen, and threw her into his male, and
running through a by-path that no man might perceiue him,
he came towards the River with infinitoy, so; he supposed
that

The pleasant History

that the Beare was certainly Gaine; & therfore said to himselfe,
my fortune is as I wish it, for the greatest sinning I had in the
Court is now dead, nor can any man suspect me guilty thereof;
but as he spoke these words, looking towards the River, he
espied where Bruine the Beare lay and rested, which struck
his heart with griefe, and he ragled against Lanfert the Carpen-
ter, saying, Silly soule that thou wert, what mad man would
have lost such good venison, especially being so fat and whole-
some, and so; which he took no paines, for he was taken to his
hand, any man would have bene proud of the fortune which
thou neglectest. Thus scolding and chiding, he came to the River
where he found the Beare all wounded and bloody, of which
Reynard was onely guilty, yet in scoorne he said to the Beare,
Mon Sire, Dieu vous garde, & the soule red villaine, said the
Beare to himselfe, what impudence is like to this? but the
fox went on with his speech, and said, What Winkie? haue
you forgot any thing at Lanferts, or haue you payed him for the
honey combs you stole if you haue not, it will rebound much
to your disgrace, which before you shall vndergoe; I will pay
him for them my selfe, sure the honey was excellent good, and I
know much more of the same price; Good Winkie, tell me be-
fore I goe, into what order doe you meane to enter, that you
beare this new-fashioned God? will you be a Monk, an Ab-
bot, or a Friar? surely he that shamed your crowne hath cropt
your eares, also your fore-top is lost, and your gloues are gone;
the women, goe not bare handed; they say forswearing Peccauit
rarely. These taunts made Bruine mad with rage; but because
he could not take revenge, he was content to let him take his
pleasure; then after a small rest he plunged againe into the Ri-
uer, and swam downe the streame, and landed on the other
side, where he began with much griefe to meditate how he
might get to the Court, for he had lost his eares, his talons;
and all the skin off his face, so that he had a thousand deathes
followed him; he could not goe, and yet of necessity he must
moue, that in the end compelled by extremity, he set his but-
tockes on the ground, and tumbled his body ouer and ouer, so
by degrees tumbling now halfe a mile and then halfe a mile, in
the

of Reynard the Fox.

the end he tumbled to the Court; where diuers beholding his strange manner of approach; they thought some prodemie had commed towards them, but in the end the King knew him, and grew angry, saying: It is Sir Bruine my seruant, what villaines haue wounded him thus, or where hath he bene that he brings his death thus along with him? And my dead Soueraigne Lord the King (cried out the Beare) I complaine me graciously vnto you: behold how I am massacred, which I humbly beseech you reuenge on that false Reynard, who for doing your royall pleasure, hath brought me to this disgrace and slaughter. When said the King, how durst he doe this? now by my crowne I sweare, I will take the reuenge which shall make the traitors tremble: whereupon the King sent for all his Counsaile, & consulted how and in what sort to persecute against the Fox, where it was generally concluded, that he should be againe summoned to appeare, and answer his trespasses; and the party to summon him, they appointed to be Tybert the Cat, as well for his grauity as wisdom: all which pleased the King well.

CHAP. 5.

How the King sent Tybert the Cat for Reynard the Fox.

THEN the King called for Sir Tybert the Cat, and said to him, Sir Tybert, you shall goe to Reynard, and say to him the second time, and command him to appeare, and answer his offences, for though he be cruell to others beastes, yet to you he is courteous, assure him if he faile at your first summons, that I will take so seuer a course against him and all his posterity, that his example shall terrifie all offenders: When said Tybert the Cat, my dead Lord, they were my foes which thus aduised you, for there is nothing in me that can force him either to come or tarry: I beseech your Maiestie send some one of greater power, I am little and feeble: besides, if noble Sir Bruine that is so strong and mightie could not enforce him, what will my weakenesse answere? The King replied, It is your wis-

The pleasant History

The Morall. Wisdome Sir Tybert I employ, and not your strength, an
By the sending of the Cat to
fetch the Fox, is exprest the
care of Magi-
strates, that
when they
haue beene
deceiued by
the pride and
ostentation
of such as they
did employ,
and thought
discreete; that
thē they seeke
out those that
are knowne
wise, and em-
ploy them, be-
cause wisdom
is euen cir-
cumuented by
a greater wise-
dome. In the
Cat much
lothes to go,
is exprest, the
vnwillingnes
a wiseman hath
to meddle in
digerous mat-
ters, especial-
ly when they
hold the party
with whom
they haue to
doe of a reach
far beyond
thē, yet when
authority com-
mands, they
must obey,
many prouails with Art when violence returns with loss in
hour. Well said the Cat, Since it is your pleasure, it must be
accomplished: heauen make my fortune better then my heart
presageth. This Tybert made things in restinesse, and went
towards Malepardus, and in his iourney he saw come flying
towards him one of Saint Martins birds, to whom the Cat
cried aloude, Haile gentle bird, I beseech thee turne thy wings,
and sit on my right hand, but the bird turned the contrary
way, and flew on his left side, then grew the Cat very heauy,
for he was wise and skilfull in Augurisme, and knew the signe
to be ominous, neuertheless (as many doe) he armed himselfe
wit better hope, and went to Malepardus, where he found the
Fox standing before his Castle gates, to whom Tybert said,
Heath to my faice cousin Reynard: so it is that the King by
me summons you to the Court, in which if you faile or deferre
time there is nothing moze assured vnto you, then a cruell and
a suddaine death. The Fox answered Well come deare cousin
Tybert, I obey your command, and wish my Lord the King in-
finite dayes of happinesse, onely let me intreate you to rest with
me to night, and take such cheare as my simple house affordeth
and to morrow as early as you will, we will goe towards the
Court, for I haue no kinsman I trust so dearely as your selfe.
Heere was with me the other day the trecherous Knight Sir
Bruine the Beare, who lookt vpon me with that tyrannous cru-
elty, that I would not for the wealth of an Empire haue hazar-
ded my person with him: but my deare cousin with you I will
goe, were a thousand sicknesses vpon me. Tybert replied, You
speake like a noble Gentleman, and me thinks it is best now
to goe forward, for the Sonne shines as bright as day: My
deare cousin (said the Fox) let vs take day before vs, so may we
incounter with our friends, the night is full of danger and sus-
pition: Well said the Cat if it be your pleasure I am content,
what shall we eate: Reynard said, truly my Noze is small, the
best I haue is a honny-combe, so pleasant and sweet, what
think you of it? Tybert replyeth, it is waste I little respect and
seldome eate: I had rather haue one Spouse then all the Hony
in

of Reynard the Fox.

in Europe? A Prouse (said Reynard) why my deare cousin, here dwelleth a Priest by, who hath a Barn by his house so full of spice, that I thinke halfe the Wilaynes in the Barre are not able to beare them! O deare Reynard (quoth the Cat) doe but leade me thither and make me your seruant for ever: Why (said the Fox) but Ioue you spice so erabdingly? beyond expression (quoth the Cat) why a Prouse is beyond Wenison, or the delicatest Cates on Princes tables: therefore condux me thither, and commaund my friendship in any matter: had you slaine my father, my mother, and al my kinne, I would clearly forgive you.

though neuer
so many dan-
gers attend
them.

CHAP. 7.

How Tybert the Cat was deceiued by Reynard the Fox.

THEN said Reynard, sure you doe but iest; no by my life, said the Cat: Tell then (quoth the Fox) if you be in earnest, I will so worke that this night I will fill your belly; 'tis not possible, said the Cat: then follow me, said the Fox: for will I bring you to the place presently: thus away they went with all speed to the Priests Beare, which was well walled about with a mudde wall, where but the night before the Foxe had broken in, and stolne from the Priest an exceeding fat Ven; at which the Priest was so angry, that he had set a grin or snare before the hole to catch him at his next coming, which the saile Foxe knew perfectly, and therefore said to the Cat, Sir Tybert crepe in at this hole, and beleeue it you shall not tarry a minutes space, but you shall haue more spice then you are able to deuoure: hark you may heare how they peepe, when your belly is full come againe, and I will stay and awaite for you heare at this hole, that to morrow we may goe together to the Court: but god cousin stay not too long, for I know my wife will hourly expect us; Then (said the Cat) thinke you I may safely enter in at this hole? these Priests are wise, and subtil, and catch

The pleasant History



their danger to close, that rashnes is some overtaken; why
you kn Tyberr, (said the Kere) I neuer saw you turne co-
wa d before; what man feare you a shadow? the Cat asse-
me d at his feare spring quickly in at the hole, but was present-
ly caught fast by the necke with the Scin, which as soon as the
Cat felt and perceived, he quickly leapt backe againe, so that
the

of Reynard the Fox.

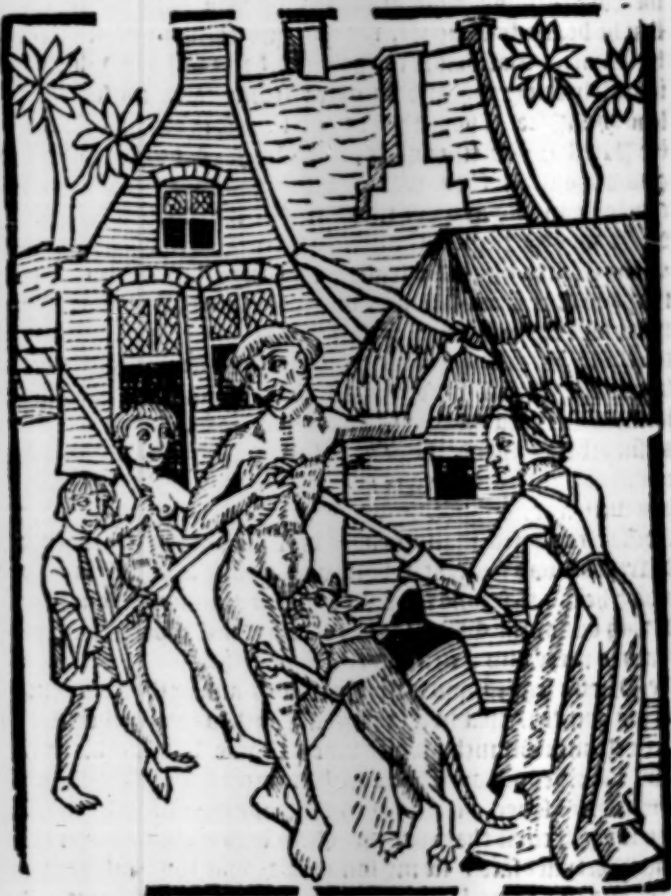
the snare running close together, he was halfe strangled, so that he began to striggle, cry out; and exclaine most piteously: Reynard stood before the hole and heard all, at which he instantly relented, and in great sorrow said: cousin Tybert how you speake I hope they be well fed for your sake; but for the Priest or Whittier of your feasting, I know them of so good disposition they would bring you saue quickly; in a thinckes you sing at your meat, is that the Court fashion? If it be, I would I might the Wolfe were coupled with you, that all my friends might be feasted together: but all this while the poore Cat was fast and mewed so piteously, that Partenet left out of his bed, and cried to his people: arise, for the thase is taken that hath stolne our Wens: With these words the Priest unfortunately rose up and awakned all in his house, trying the Fox is taken, the Fox is taken! and he arising strake naked, he came to lullocke his wife an offering candle to light, and then coming first to Tybert he smote him with a great staffe, and after him many other: so that the Cat receiued many deadly blowes, and the anger of Partenet was so great, he strake out one of the Cats eyes, which he did, to serue the naked Priest, thinking at one blow to dash out of the Cat his eyes: But the Cat perceiving his reach to nere him, in a desperate mode he leapt betwixt the Priests legges, and with his claws and teeth to fastened on his genitals, that in all the great Turkes Scablia, there was not a nearer Catruch: which when Dame lullocke his wife saw, she cryed out and swore she had rather haue lost the whole offerings of seven yeres, then that one poore little morsell, and withall curst that euer the Crin was inuented, and calling Partenet said: I saw my sonne this was thy fathers delight and my Iewell; but it is now spoiled, to his shame and my bitter losse for euer: for how soeuer he be cured, yet so me he can neuer more be comfortable: All this while Reynard stood before the hole and saw what passed, and laughed so extremely that his body was ready to breake: saying to Dame lullocke, the woman doe not torment your selfe so, the Priest hath lost but one stone, you may yet receiue one bene-

The Moral.

By the Fox insinuating of the Caris express, how wise men will trust their enemies, or giue credit to reconciled friends, they euer more multiply in their designs; and therefore euer y wise man should to temper his Affections, that he grow not fond of any thing in his enemies power, how agreeable so euer it be either with his Nature or his Power. For by the baytes of an enemy are onely gilded pilles, which are faire to looke on, but most bitter to tast; By the mischiese which the Priest receiued, is shewed, that they which harme watch harme catch, & that violence:

The pleasant History

the rappe
which men
now and then
set for others,
bring hurt to
themselues.



violence: there is many a Chappell in which but one Bell
rings. Now whilst the Fore thus scolded the Priest wife,
the poore Priest fell downe in a faine, so that every man
left the Cat, to reuise the Priest: Which whilst they were
doing, the Fore returned home to Mallespardus, so; he imagi-
ned the Cat was past all hope of escape: but the poore Cat
seeing

of Reynard the Fox.

seeing all her foes busie about the Bzick, she presently began to gnaw and byte the corde till she had sheared it quite asunder in the midst: Which done, she leapt out of the hole and went rolling and tumbling (like the Beare) to the Kings Court. But before he got thither it was faire day, and the Sunne being risen, he entred the Court, like the pittifullest beast that ever was beheld; for by the fores craft his boop was beaten and bzuisled, his bones shruered and broken; one of his eyes lost, and his skinne rent and mangled. This when the King beheld, and saw Tybert so pittifullly mangled, he grew infinitely angry, and toke counsaile once more, how to reuenge the iniuries vpon the Fore. After some consultation Grimbart the Brocke Reynards Wiffers sonne, said to the rest of the Kings Counsaile, My god Lords, though my Uncle were twice so euill as these complaints make him; yet there is remedy enough against his mischiefs: therefore it is fit you doe him Justice as to a man of his ranche which is, he must be the thirde time summoned, and if then he appeare not, make him guilty of all that is laid against him. When the King demanded of the Brocke, whom he thought fittest to summon him, or who would be so desperate to hazard his hands, his eares, nay his life with one so tyrannous and trelligious? Truly (answered the Brocke) if it please your Maiesty, I am that desperate person who dare aduenture to carry the message to my most subtile kinsman, if your highnesse but command me.

CHAP. 8.

How *Grimbart* the Brocke was sent to bring the Fox to the Court.

THE King said: Goe Grimbart for I commaund you; yet take heede of Reynard for he is subtile and malicious: The Brocke thanked his Maiesty, & so taking humble leaue, went to Malopardus where he found Reynard and Ermelin his wife, sporting with their young whelps; then hauing saluted his Uncle and his Aunt, he said: Take heede faire Uncle that
C your

The pleasant History

The Morall.

your absence from the Court adde not moze mischief to your cause, then the offence doth deserue: beleeue it, it is high time you appeare at the Court, since your delay both beget but moze danger and punishment: the complaints against you are infinite, and this is your third time of Summons: Therefore your wisdom may tell you, that if you delay but one day further, In the sending, of the Booke to fetch the Fox, is shewed that when the vicious cannot be ouertaken & brought to answer, then it is meete to vse their own weapons against them, & with policie to circumuent their policy, which can no way be better done then by employing their kindred, and such as they most dearely affect to perswade them, because Affection is euer a preuailing Orator.



there

of Reynard the Fox

there is left to you no; yours any hope of mercy: for within thre dayes your Castle will be demolished, your kindred made slaues, and your selfe exempted for a publique example: There-
foze my best Mucke, I beseech you recollect your wisdomie, and
goe with me presently to the Court, I doubt not but your dis-
cretion shall excuse you; for you haue paid theow many ex-
cellent perils, and made your foes ashamed, whilst the Inno-
cence of your cause hath bozne you spotlesse from the Tribu-
nall: Reynard answered, Stephew your say true, and I will be
advised and goe with you, not to answer offences: but in that
I know the Court standes need of my counsaile; the Kings
mercy I doubt not, if I may come to speake with his Priestly,
though mine offences were ten times doubled, for I know
the Court cannot stand without me, and that shall his highnes
vnderstand truly, though I know I haue many enemies, yet
it troubles me not: for mine Innocence shall awaken their in-
juries, and they shall know that in high matters of State and
politic, Reynard cannot be missing they may well harpe vpon
things, but the pyth and ground must come from my relations:
it is the enuie of others hath made me leaue the Court, for
though I know their shallownes cannot disgrace me, yet may
their multitudes oppresse me: Next helpe (Stephew) I will
goe with you to the Court, and answer for my selfe, and not
hazard the welfare of my Wife and Children; the King is so
mighty, and though hee doeme iniury, yet will I beare it with
patience; this spoke, he turn'd to his wife and said, Dame Er-
melin haue care of my children, especially Reynikin my youngest
Sonne, for he had much of my loue, and I hope will follow my
steps; also Rosell is passing hopesfull, and I loue them intirely;
therefoze regard them, and if I escape, doubt not but my loue
shall requite you. At this leaue taking Ermelin wept, and her
children howled for their Lord and victualer was gone, and
Mallepardus left vnprovidid.

CHAP. 9.

CHAP. 9.

The pleasant History

CHAP. 9.

How Reynard shroue him to Grimbart the Brocke.

The Morall.

The shrift of the Fox sheweth that when euill men are in dāger, then they cuerfaine most religion, and by a show of penitence win pittie from those that diue not into the depth of their deceit & knauery, whereby though they be neuer so euill, yet they get a good name, & steale into the good opinion of the multitude; by the absolution which the Brocke gaue the Foxe, is shewed, how easily an honest simple man may be brought to beleue a knaues penance, & how

WHEN Reynard and Grimbart had gone a good way on their iourney, Reynard stayed, and said Deare Apphe, blame me not if my heart be full of care, for my life is in great hazard, yet to blot out my sinnes with repentance and to cast off the burthen; giue me leaue to shryne my selfe vnto you: I know you are holy, and hauing receiued penance for my sin, my soule will be at quiet. Grimbart had him pprocd: Then said the Foxe, Confitebor tibi pater: Nay said the Brocke, if you will shryue you to me, doe it in English that I may vnderstand you: Then said Reynard, I haue grievously offended against all the Beasts that liue, and especially mine Uncle Bruine the Beare, whom I lately massacred and Tybert the Cat whom I insinared in a grin. I haue trespassed against Chauntecleere and his Children, and haue deuoured many of them; nay, the King hath not borne quit of my malice, for I haue slaundered him and his Quene, I haue betrayed Megrim the Wolfe, and called him Uncle, though no part of his blood ranne in my veins: I made him a Donke of Elmane, where I became also one of the order onely to doe him open mischief. I made him binde his sate to a bell-rope to teach him to ring, but the peale had like to haue cost him his life, the men of the parish beat and wounded him so sore: after this I taught him to catch fish, but he was soundly beaten thereto, and salet the stripes at this instant. I led him to Roate Bacon at a rich Priests house, where he sed so extremely, that not bring able to get out where he got in, I raised all the Towne vpon him; and then went where the Priest was set at meate with a fat Hen before him: which Hen I snatcht away, so that the Priest cried out, kill the Fox, for neuer man said thing so strange that the Fox should come into my house, and take my meate from before me.

This is a boldnes beyond knowledgo: and with these wordes he threwe his knife at me, but he mist me, and I ranne away tohill

of Reynard the Fox.



ap they are
forgiue trel
palles vpon
fained sorrow
which indeed
shoud not be
done without
a more strickt
and seuer exa
mination. The
Foxes leading
the Brocke by
the monaste
rie, and taking
the Capon ,
sheweth, that
wherewicked
nes is rooted
and made as it
were a habit,
that there nor
withstanding
all hypocrisie
it will still
flash out and
a knaue will be
a knaue in de
spite of all per
suasions and
good coun
saile.

whilst he pursued me, crying, Kill the Fox, kill the Fox, and
after him a world of other people, whom I led to the place
where Isgrim was, and there I let the Den fall, for it was
too heavy for me (yet much against my will) and then spring
ing through a hole, I got into safety. Now as the Priest took
up the Den, he espied Isgrim, and then cried out, Strike
friends,

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friends, like, here is the Wolfe, by no meanes let him escape
vs: When the people ranne all together with clubs and staves,
and with a dreadfull noise giuing the poore Wolfe many a
deadly blow, and some throwing stones after him, hit him such
mortal blowes on the body, that the Wolfe fell downe as if he
had bene, dead which perceived, they took him & drag'd him by the
taile

of Reynard the Fox.

heeles ouer stockes and bones, and in the end threio him into a ditch without the village, and there hee lay all night, but how hee got thence I know not. Another time I led him to a place, where I tolde him were seauen Hens and a Cock, set on a perch all lusty and fat, and hard by the place stood a fall doze, on which we climed: then I told him if he would creepe in at the doze, he should finde the Hennes. Then I segim with much ioy went laughing to the doze, and entring in a little and groping about, he said, Reynard, you abuse me, so; here is nothing; then replied I, Uncle, they are further, and if you will haue them, you must aduenture so; for them: those which used to sit there, I my selfe haue long sene: at this the Wolfe going a litle further, I gaue him a push so; ward, so that he fell downe into the vault, and his fall was so grent, and made such a noyse, that they which were asleepe in the house, awaked and cried, that something was fallen downe at the trap doze: whereupon they arose and lighted a candle, and spying him, they beat and wounded him to death. Thus I brought the Wolfe to many hazards of his life, more then I can now either remember or rection, which as they come to my minde, I will reneate to you heereafter. I haue also grieuouly offendec against Dame Arlewind his wife, of which I much repent me, so; it was highly to her dishonour. One's said Grimbart, I vnderstand you not, you make your sh:ift vnperfect, so; you say you haue offendec, but declare not in what: Pardon me Iephew, I know you hate to heare dishonour of women: the truth is, I haue layne with her. Thus haue I tolde you my wickednesse, now oyer my penance as shall serue it in your discretion. Grimbart was both learned and wise, and therefore he bzake a rod from a tree, and said, Iephew, You shall thre times strike your body with this rod, and then lay it downe vpon the ground, and spyring thre times ouer it without botming your legges or stumbling then shall you take it vp, and kisse it gently in signe of meekenesse and obedience to your penance: which done, you are absolved of your sinnes committed to this day, so; I pronounce vnto you cleare remission. At this the fore was exceeding glad, and then Grimbart said vnto him, Doe that hence-
so;th

The pleasant History

forth Uncle you doe good works , read your Psalter , goe to Church, fast vigils, keepe Holy-dayes, giue a'lmes, and leane your selfe and euill life, your theft and your treason, and then no doubt you shall attaine mercy. The For promised to per-
foyme all this, and so they went together towards the Court:
but a litle before the way as they went stode a religious house
of summes, whers many Geese, Hennes and Capons went
without the wall: and as they went talking, the For led Grim-
bart out of his right way to that place, and finding the Bullaine
walking without the Barne, amongst which was a fat yong
Capon, which strayed a litle from his fellowes : at which he
suddainely leapt and caught him by the feathers, which flew
about his eares; but the Capon escaped, which Grimbart seeing,
said, Accursed man, what will you doe , will you for a filly
Pullet fall againe into all your sinnes: mischiefe it selfe would
not doe it: to which Reynard answered, Pardone me deare Ho-
phew, I had forgotten my selfe, but I will aske forgiveness,
and mine eye shall no moze wander, and then they turned ouer



of Reynard the Fox.

a little Bylde: but the Fox still glaunced his eye towards the Pullaine, and could by no meanes reſtraine it, ſo; the ill that was byed in his bones, ſtill ſtick to his fleſh, and his minde carried his eyes that way as long as he could ſee them: which the Wycke nothing, ſaid, Fie, diſſembling conſin, why wander your eyes ſo after the Pullaine: the Fox replied: Nephew you doe me iniurie ſo to miſtake me, ſo; mine eyes wandred, not, but I was ſaying a Paternoller ſo; the ſoules of all the Pullaine and Gels which I haue ſlaine and betrayed, in which deuotion you hindred me: Well ſaid Grimbart, it may be ſo, but your glaunces are ſuſpitiouſ, Now by this time they were come into the way againe, and made haſte towards the Court, which alſone: as the Fox ſaw, his heart quaked ſo; feare, ſo; he knew well the crimes he was to anſwere ſo; were infinite and haynous.

CHAP. IO.

How the Fox came to the Court, and how he excuſed himſelfe.

AS ſone as it was bynted in the Court, that Reynard the Fox, and Grimbart his kiſman were arraigned there, every one from the higheſt to the loweſt prepared himſelfe to cõplaine of the Fox: at which Reynards heart quaked, but his countenance kept the olde garbe, and he went as proudly as euer he was wont with his Nephew throughe the high ſtreate, and came as gallantly into the Court, as if he had bene the Kings ſonne, and as cleare from treſpaſſe, and the moſt innocent whoſeuer: and when he came befoze the chaire of State, in which the King ſate, he ſaid; Heauen gloue your Maieſties glozy and renowne above all the Princes of the earth: I aſſure your Highneſſe there was neuer King had a truer ſervant then my ſelfe haue bene to you, and yet am and ſo will die: Nevertheless (my dread Lord) I know there be many in this Court that ſake my confuſion, if they could winne beleefe with your Maieſtie: but you ſcozne the ſlaunders of malice, and although in theſe

The pleasant History



The Morall.

In the Foxes
appearing at
the Court is
shewed, that
when a male-
factor is
brought before
the Iustice,
what the is the
fit time for all
men that have
bin injured, to
utter their
complaints,

dayes flatterers have the most roome in Princes Courts, yet
with you it is not so, nor shall they reape any thing but shame
for their labour. But the King cut him short at these wordes,
and said, Deceitfull Reynard, I know your dissimulation,
and can expound your flattery, but both shall now faile
you: thinke you I can be caught with the musicke of your
wordes?

of Reynard the Fox.

words: no, it hath too oft deceiued me: the peace which I com-
 manded and swore vnto, that haue you broken. And as he
 would haue gone so forward, Chauntecleere cried out, O how
 haue I lost this noble peace? We will Chauntecleere (said the
 King) and then he proceeded, Thou devill among good ones,
 with what face canst thou say thou louest me, and seest all these
 wretched creatures ready to dispmoue thee; whose very wounds
 yet spot bloody defiance vpon thee: and so; which beleeues thy
 dearest life shall answer, In nomine patris, &c. said the Fox, My
 dread Lord, if Bruines crowne be bloody, what is that to me? if
 your Maiestie employed him in a message, and hee would
 neglect it to steale hony at the carpenters house, where he recei-
 ued his wounds, how shall I amend it? if reuenge he sought,
 why did hee not take it himselfe? he is strong and puissant, it
 was not to be lost so; at my weakenesse; As so; Tybert the
 Cat (whom I receiued with all friendship) if he against my wil-
 or aduice will steale into the Priests Barne to catch Spice, and
 there lose his eyes, nay his life: wherein is mine offence, or how
 become I their guardian? O my dread Lord, you may doe
 your royall pleasure, and how euer mine innocence please, yet
 your will may aduidge me to what death contents you: I am
 your vassalle, and haue no support but your mercy, I know
 your strength and mine owne weakenesse, and that my death
 can yeeld you but small satisfaction, yet what soeuer your will
 is, that to me shall be most acceptable. And as hee thus spake,
 Bellin the Ham kept forth, and his Cwe dame Oleway, and he
 sought the King to heare their complaynt: with them Bruine
 the Beate and all his mighty lineage. Also Tybert the Cat, Is-
 grim the Wolfe, Kyward the Hare, and Panther; the Boze, the
 Cammell and Bruell the Goats, the Kid and the Goale, Bould-
 win the Ass, Bortell the Bull, and Hamell the Dre, the Wilsell,
 Chauntecleere the Cocke, and Parlet with all her children. All
 these with one entire noyse cried out against the Fox, and so
 moued the King with their complaints, that the Fox was
 taken and arrested.

because then
 only redresse
 is to be had.
 In the Lyon
 is exprest the
 awfullnesse of
 lustice, and
 how terrible
 it is to euer
 offend respec-
 tially such as
 haue the guilt
 of conscience
 within them.

The Foxes
 bold behavi-
 our shewes,
 that impudent
 malefactors
 when they are
 called in ques-
 tion, make
 audacity their
 chiefe guard,
 and by rayling
 against their
 aduersaries,
 doe seeke to
 extenuate the
 loosenesse of
 their offences,
 but truth and
 iustice will
 not bee hood-
 winckt.

The pleasant History

CHAP. II.

How the Fox was Arrested and Iudged to death.

VPOON this arrest a Parliament was called, and every boyce went that Reynard should be executed: notwithstanding he answered every objection severally, though great Art was used both in the one and the other; to the wonderfull admiration of all that heard him. But witnesses examined, and every p^{ro}se made pregnant: the f^or was condemned & Judgement was given, that he should be hanged till his body were dead. At which sentence the f^or cast downe his head, f^or all his folkt^y was lost, and no flattery no; no words now p^{re}uailed. This done, Grimbart his nephew, and diuers others neare him in blood, (which could not endure to see him dye) took their leaue of the King and departed from the Court. When the King noted what gallant young Gentleman departed thence, all sad and weeping, being neare of the f^ores b^ody and alliance: he said to himselfe, It behoueth vs to take good and mature counsaile, though Reynard haue some faults, yet he hath many friends, and moze vertues; As the King was thus thinking, the Cat said to the Beare: Sir Bruine, and you Sir Isegrim, Why are you slowe in this Execution: the Euen is almost come, and here be many bushes and hedges, if he escape and qust himselfe of this danger, his subtilty is so great, that not all the Art in the world shall euer againe intangle him: If you meane to execute him, then p^{ro}ceede, f^or befoze the Gallowes can be made, it will be darke night. At these words Isegrim remembryng himselfe said, There is a payze of Gallowes nere at hand (and with that fetch'd a dape sigh) which the Cat noting, said: Are you afraide Sir Isegrim, or is this execution against your minde? you may remember that it was onely his worke, that both your brethern were hang'd: and sure had you Iudgement, you would thanke him f^or the same, and not thus stand trifling time. But Isegrim halfe angry answered, your anger puts out the eye of your reason, yet had we a Walter that would sit by the necke,

of Reynard the Fox.

necke, w^{ch} would sone dispatch him. Reynard that had bene
 silent a great while, said : I beseech you choyse my paine : & it



Tybert hath a cojbe strong enough , in which himselfe was
 hang'd at the Priest's house, when he bit off the Priest's geny-
 tojs, besides he can climbe well and is swift: & let him be mine

The pleasant History

The Moll.

By the violence of the Beare, the Woolfe & the Cat, in pursuing the Foxe to death, and making them felues executioners, is shewed the great malice of great persons against their enemies and such from whom they haue receiued mischiefe in which they will many times rather hazard their Honors then their reuenges, so blinde is wratch, & so deformed it makes men that are cloathed therewith.

The Foxes patience and milde temper shewes that when men are in extremity, they must make vse of all their vertues, especially meekenes,

Executioner, for it neither becommeth hissegrime nor Bruine thus to doe to their Nephew: I am sorry I liue to see it. But since you are set to be my hangmen, play your parts and delay not: goe before Bruine and leade my way: softso Isegrim and beware I escape not: you say well said Bruine, and it is the best counsaile I haue heard you giue. So forth they went, and Isegrim and all his friends guarded the Foxe, leading him by the neck, and other parts of his body: when the Foxe felt this blage he was dismayd, yet said: Why doe you put your selues (my best kinsmen) to this paine, to doe me hurt; beloeue it I could well aske you forgiveness, though my paines be pleasant vnto you, yet well I know, did my Aunt your wise vnderstand of my trouble she would for olde affection sake not see me thus tormented: But I am subiect to your will, and can endure your worst malice: as for you Bruine and Tybert, I leaue my reuenge to Iustice, and wish you the reward of Traytors, if you doe not to me the worst in your powers: I know my worst fortune, and death can come but once vnto me; I wish it were past all ready, for to me it is no terror: I saw my Father dye, and how quickly he vanished, therefore the worst of death is familiar vnto me: then said Isegrim, let vs goe, for his curse shal not light on me by delaying: So he on one side, and Bruine on the other, led the poore Foxe to the Gallowes; Tybert running before with the halter, hoping to be reuenged of his wrongs so merly receiued. When they were come to the place of Execution, the King, the Queene, and all the rest of the Nobility, took their places to see the Foxe dye. When Reynard full of sorrow, and busily bethinking himselfe, how he might escape that danger, and how to smyth all and disgrace his proud enemies, as also how to draw the King on his party, saying to himselfe, though the King and many others be offended with me as they haue reason, for I haue thoroughly deserved it, neuertheless yet I hope to liue to be their best friends: During this meditation the Wolfe said: Sir Bruine now remember your Injuries, and take your reuenge in a full measure, for the day is come we wisht so; Tybert ascend quickly, and bind the rope to the Gallowes, making a running noyse, for this day you shal haue your will

of Reynard the Fox.

will of your enemy, and good Sir Braine shal keepe her escape
net, whilst I my selfe raise by the Ladder: when all things
were prepared, Th: for said, now may my heart be heavy, for
Death stands now in all his horrors before me, and I cannot
escape; my dead Lord the King, and you my Ioueraigne Lady
the Queene, and you my Lords that stand to behold to see me
dye, I beseech you graunt mee this charitable Wone; that I
may vnlooke my heart before you, and cleare my soule of her
burthens, so that hereafter no man may be blamed for me:
which done, my death will be easie, and the assistance of your
prayers will raise my soule to heauen.

for that son-
nest doth in-
sinuate with
mens natur-
es and drawes
forth pittie,
whereas
roughnesse
euer increa-
seth mis-
chiefe.

CHAP. 12.

How the Fox made his Confession before the King.

EACH creature now toke compassion on the Fox, and
said his request was small, beseeching the King to graunt
it, which was done. And then the Fox thus spake: Helpe
me Heauen, for I see no man here whom I haue not offended;
yet was this euill no naturall inclination in me, for in my
youth I was accounted as vertuous as any breathing: this
know, I haue playde with the Lambes all day long, and toke
delight in their pretty bleating, yet at last in my play I bit
one, and the taste of the Blood was so sweet vnto me, that I
approched the Flesh, and both were so sweet, that since I could
neuer forbear it; This liquozish humour drew me into the
Woods amongst the Goates, where hearing the bleating of
the little Kids, I slew one of them, and after two moze, which
slaughter made me so hardy, that then I fell to murder Hens,
Geese and other Poultryne. And thus my crimes increased by
custome, and tury so possesse me, That all was Fish which
came to my net; After this (in the Winter season) I met with
Hegrim where as he lay hid vnder a hollow tree, and he vnfol-
ded vnto me how hee was my Uncle, and laide the Pedigree
downe so plaine, that from that day forth we became fel-
lowes and companions: Which knot of friendship I may
suer curse, for then began the end of our thots and slaughters,

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he stole the great things, & the small ; he murdered Nobles, &
the meanest Subjects : and in all our actions his Wars still



was ever the greatest : when he got a Hamme, a Calf, or a
Wether, his fury would hardly afford me the hoznes to pick
on : nay when he had an Ore, or a Cow, after himselfe, his
wife,

of Reynard the Fox.

wife and his seven children were seized, nothing remained to me but the bare bones to pick on. This I speake not in that I wanted (for it is well knowne I haue more plate, Jewels and coyne then twenty Carts are able to carrie,) but onely to shew his ingratitude. When the King heard him speake of this infinite treasure and riches, his heart grew inflamed with a desire thereof, and he said: Reynard, where is that treasure you speake of? The Fox answered, By Lord, I shall willingly tell you, for it is true, the wealth was stolne, and had it not bene stolne in that manner which it was, it had cost your Highnesse your life (which heauen I beseech keepe euer in their protection.) When the Quene heard that dangerous speech, she started, and said, What dangers are these you speak of Reynard? I doe command you vpon your soules health, to unfold these doubtfull speeches, and to keepe nothing concealed which concernes the life of my deead Lord. The Fox with a sorrowfull and sad countenance replied to the Quene, O my deead soueraigne Lady, at what infinite ease were I, if I might dye at this present: but gracious Madame, your coniuration and the health of mine owne soule so pzenaileth with me, that I will discharge my conscience, and yet speake nothing but what I will make good with the hazard of my damnation. 'Tis true, the King should haue bene pittiously murdered by his owne people, and I must confesse by those of my nearest kindred, whom I am unwilling to accuse, did not the health of mine owne soule, and my fealty to the King command the contrary. The King much perplexed at this discourse, said: Is this true Reynard which you protest? the Fox answered, Alas my deead Lord, you see the case wherein I stand, and how small a sand is left in my poore glasse to runne: Can your Maiestie imagine I will now dissemble: what can the whole world auaille me, when my soule perisheth? and at that he trembled, and lookt so pittifully, that the Quene had great compassion of him, and humbly besought the King for the safety of his owne royall person, to take some pity of the Fox, and to command all his Subi:ctes to hold their peace, and keepe silence till he had spoke the vtermoost of his knowledge:

The pleasant History

The Murd.

By the Foxes
confession &
accu-ation of
his en-emies,
is exprested a
three-fold
subtily in the
Fox: First by
his voluntary
confession of
his faults, is
shewed, his
so row for the
same, and the
little hope he
had of life,
which pier-
cing into the
weake nature
of the Queen
being a wo-
man, and sub-
iect to pittie,
begot much
compassion
towards him.
2. The accu-
sing of those
whom he was
knowne most
assuredly to
loue, was a
meanes to
draw beliefe
to that hee
spoke.
3. The inga-
ging the life
of the King,
and making
the treason
so foule, was

all which was presently done, and the For proceeded in this
maner: Since it is the pleasure of my soueraigne Lord the
King, and that his royall life lyeth in the ballance with my
present death, I will freely and boldly unfold this capitall and
foule treason, and in the relation not spare any guilty person
for any respect what ocuer, whether it be blood, greatnesse, or
authoritie: Know then my dread soueraigne Lord the King,
that my father by a strange accident digging in the ground,
found out King Ermericks treasure, being a masse infinite
and innumerable: of which being possesse, he grew so proud and
haughty, that he held in scorne all the Beasts of the Wilder-
nesse, which before had bene his kinsmen and companions: at
last he caused Tybert the Cat to goe into the vast Forrest of
Arden to Bruine the Beare, and to tender to him his homage
and fealty, saying, If it would please him to be King, he should
come into Flaunders, where he would shew him meanes how
to set the Crowne on his head. Bruine was glad of this Em-
bassage (for he was exceeding ambitious, and had long thirsted
for soueraignty) and thereupon came into Flaunders,
where my father receiued him nobly. Then presently he
sent for the wise Grimbard my Nephew, and for Isegrim the
Wolfe, and for Tybert the Cat: then these five conning be-
twene Gaunt and the village called Elfe, they held a solemne
Counsaile for the space of a whole night: in which by the as-
sistance of the deuill, and the strong confidence of my fathers
riches it was there concluded, that your Maiestie should be
forthwith murdered: which to effect, they toke a solemne oath
in this manner. The Beare, my father, Grimbard and the
Cat, laying their hands on Isegrims crowne, sware first to
make Bruine their King, & to place him in the chayze of Estate
at Acon, and to set the Imperiall Diadem on his head: and
if by any of your Maiesties blood and aluance, they should be
gain-sayed, that then my father with his treasure should hire
those which should utterly chase and rote them out the For-
rest. Now after this determination held and finished, it hap-
ned that my Nephew Grimbard being on a time high stoune
with wine: he discovered this damnable plot to dame Slope-
cade

cade his wife, comāding her vpon her life to keepe secret the same: but she forgetfull of her charge, discloide it in confession to my wife, as they went a pilgrimage ouer an Heath, with like coniuration of secretie: But she (woman-like) containēd it no longer then till she met with me, & gaue me a full knowlodge of all that had passed, yet so as by all meanes I must keepe it secret too, for she had sworne by the three Kings of Culen, neuer to disclose it: and withall, she gaue me such assurance by certain tokens, that I right well found all was true which she had spoken: in so much, that the very affright thereof made my haire stand vp right, and my heart became like Lead, colde & heauy in my bosome, which made me call to minde the story of the frogs, who being free, and without subiection, complained to Iupiter, and desired they might haue a King to rule and gouerne ouer them, and he presently sent them a Stoake, which ate and deuoured them vp: so that by his tyrannie they became the most miserable of all creatures: then they complained againe to Iupiter for redresse, but it was then too late: for they which could not be content with their freedom, must now of necessity suffer in thraldome.

Thus I feared it might happen with vs, and thus I sorrowed for your Maiesty, although you little respect my grieving: I know that ambition of the Beare, and his tyrannie is so infinite great, that should the gouernement come into his hands (as heauen forbid) the whole Common-wealth will be destroyed: Besides, I know your Maiestie of so royall and Princely birth, so mighty, so gracious, and so mercifull, that it had bene a damnable exchange to haue seene a rauenous Beare sit in the throne of the royall Lyon, for there is in the Beare, and in his generation more prodigall lechewesse and inconstancie, then in any Beast whatsoeuer. But to procede, from this sorrow, I began to meditate how I might vnder my fathers false and wicked conspiracies, who sought to bring a base traytor and a slave into the throne Imperiall: for I well perceined as long as hee held the treasures, there was a possibility of deposing your Maiesty, and this troubled my thought exceedingly, so that I laboured how I might finde out where

a way to affright the Queene, and others of her tenderneſſe, of heart, and to bring his enemies into disgrace and scandall, wherein the Foxe saweth, that he which will flaunder, or will haue any vntruth beleued: must first strength then his opinion with pity, then get beliefe, and lastly exercise his mischiefes against all which a wise man will shut his eares as the Lyon did: if he be not ouertempted by those hee loves, as the Lyon was by the Queene, and his owne couetousnes in desiring that infinite treasure the which there is nothing

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sooner to the belief of vn-truth and of falshood : for what a man desires, that his owne desire will make him credit, & where such credit is giuen, there commonly the wicked escape from punishment, as heere it fell out with the Fox.



the open fields : nay, in all places wheresoeuer my father laid his eyes, there was I ever watching and attending. Now it hapned on a time as I was laid downe flat on the ground, I
saw

of Reynard the Fox.

saw my father come running out of a hole, and asking as he was come out, he gazed round about him to see if any discovered him: then seeing the coast cleere, he stopped the hole with sand, and made it so even, smooth, and plaine, that no curious eye could discern a difference twixt it and the other earth: and where the print of his foot remained, that with his taylor he stroked over, and with his mouth so smothered, that no man might perceine it: and indeed that and many other subtilties I learned of him there at that instant: when he had thus finished, away he went to wards the village about his private affaires: then went I presently towards the hole, and notwithstanding all his subtilty, I quickly found it out, then entered I the Cave, where I found that innumerable quantity of treasure, which cannot be expressed: which found, I took Ermelin my wife to helpe me, and we ceast not day nor night with infinite great toyle and labour, to carry & convey away this treasure to another place, much more convenient for us, where we laid it safe from the search of any creature. Now during the time that my wife and I were thus employed, my father was in consultation with the rest of the traitors, about the death of the King: in which consultation it was concluded, that Isegrim the Wolfe should trauaile over all the Kingdome, and promise to all Beasts that would take wages, and acknowledge Bruine for their Soueraigne, and defend his title, a full peaces pay beforehand. And in this journey my father accompanied him, carrying letters Patent signed to that purpose, little suspecting that he was robb of the wealth which should supply his treason: When this negotiation was finished betwene Elme and Soame, and a world of valiant scoldiers raised against the beginning of the next spring: then they returned to Bruine and his confederates, to whom they declared the many perils they had escaped in the Dukedome of Saxony, where they were pursued by Huntsmen and Hounds, so as they hardly escaped with life: after these relations they shewed Bruine their murther-tolls, which pleased him exceeding much, for there was of Isegrims lineage about twelue hundred sworne to the action, besides the Wares alone kindred,

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the Foxes, the Cats, and the Dassens, all which would bee in readinesse vpon an hures warning. All this I found out (I praise Heauen) by perfect intelligence: Now things being brought to this perfection, my father went to his caue of treasurie: but when he found it open, spoyld and ransackt, it is not in me to expresse the infinite agony and sorow he fell into; that grieke conuerting to madnesse, and madnes to hang'd peration: suddainely he went to the next Tree and del himselfe.

Thus by my Art onely was the Treason of Bruine defeated, for which I now suffer: from hence sprang all misfortune, as thus: These soule traytors Bruine and Hecgrim, being of the Kings priuatest Counsaile, and sitting in high and great Authority, tread vpon me poore Reynard and worke my disgrace: notwithstanding for your Hatredes sake, I haue lost my naturall father. O my dread Lord, what is he, or who can tender you a better affection, thus to loose himselfe to saue you: The King and Quene hauing great hope to get this inestimable treasure from Reynard, tooke him from the Gibbet, and intreated him to vnfolde where this great treasure was. But the Fox replid, O my Lord shall I make mine enemies my heyres: shall these Traytors which take away my life and would deuyer yours, be possesse of the good, I iniure: No, thats a madnesse I will neuer dye guilty of: Then said the Quene, feare not Reynard, the King shall saue your life and grant you pardon, and you shall henceforth sweare faith and true alleadgiance to his Maiesty. The Fox answered: Dearest Adam, if the King out of his Royall nature will giue credit to my truth, and forgive my former offences, there was neuer King so rich as I will make him: Then the King straying the Quene, said: Adam will you beleue the Fox: know you not that this naturall quality is to lye, steale and deceiue: The Quene answered, my deare Lord, now you may boldly beleue him, for howsoeuer in his prosperity he was full of errors, yet now you may see he is changed: why he spareth not to accuse his owne father, nay Grimbarde his dearest Nephew and kinsman, had hee dissembled he might haue

of Reynard the Fox.

haue layd his imputations on other Beasts; and not on those he toucheth incontinently. Well Hadam (said the King) you shall at this time tise me, and all the offences of the Fox I will cleary pardon: yet with this protestation, That if euer againe he offend in the smallest crime whatsoeuer, that not onely himselfe, but his whole generation I will utterly rote out of my Dominions. The Fox looked sadly when the King spake thus (but was inwardly most infinitely glad at his heart) and said, my dread Lord (it were a huge shame in me, should I speake any vntruthes in this great presence. When the King taking a straw from the ground, pardoned the Fox of all his trespasses which either he or his father had euer committed: If the Fox now began to smile it, was no wonder, the sweetness of life required it: yet he fell downe before the King and Queene, and humbly thanked them for mercy, protesting that for that fauour he would make them the richest Princes in the world. And at these words the Fox took vp a straw, and proffered it to the King, and said to him: My dread Lord, I beseech your Maiesty receiue this pledge, as a surrender vnto your Maiesty, of all the Treasure that the great King Ermerike was master of, with which I freely Infeoffe you, out of my meare voluntary and free motion. At these words the King receiued the Straw, and smiling, gaue the Fox great thanks for the same. But the Fox laughed out right to thinke of the abuse: from that day forward no mans counsaile preuailed with the King as the Foxes. Which the Fox seeing, said to the King: My gracious Lord you shall vnderstand, that at the West side of Flaunders, there standeth a Wood called Hulsterloe, nere which runneth a Riuer named Crekenpit, this is a Wilbernesse so bad and unpasseable, that hardly in all the yere there cometh either man or woman in the same. In it I haue hid this Treasure, whither I would haue your Maiesty and the Queene to goe, for I know none but your selues whome I dare trust in so great designe: and when your Highnes comes thither, you shall finde two Birchin trees growing by the Pit, into which you shall enter, and there you shall finde the Treasure, which

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which consisteth of Coyne, rich Jewels, and the wealthy Crowne which King Ermericke wore: With which Crowne, Bruine the Beare should haue bene Crowned, if his Treason had succeeded according to his determination: there shall you see al'so many rich and costly precious Stones, of which when you are possesse, then remember the loue of your seruant Reynard. The King answered, Sir Reynard, you must your selfe helpe me to digge for this Treasure, for else I shall neuer finde it. I haue heard named Paris, London, Acon, and Calien, but Crecenpit I neuer heard of, therefore I feare you dissemble. The Fore blushed at those words, yet with a bold countenance he said: Is your Maiesty so doubtfull of my faith? nay then I will approue my words by publike testimony: And with that he called forth Kyward the Hare, from amongst the rest of the Beasts, and commanded him to come before the King, charging him vpon his faith and Allegiance which he bore to the King and Quene, to answer truly to such questions as he should aske him: The Hare answered, I will speake truth in all things, though I were sure to dye for the same. Then the Fore said: I know you not where Crecenpit standeth? Yes said the Hare, I haue knowne it any time this doozen yeares, it standeth in a Wood called Husterloe, vpon a vast and wilde Wildernes, where I haue endured much torment both of hunger and colde: Besides it was there where Father Simony the Fryer made false Coyne, with which he supported himselfe and his fellowes. Yet that was before I and King the Hound became companions: Well said the Fore, you haue spoke sufficiently: goe to your place againe, so away went the Hare. Then said the Fore, O my soueraigne Lord the King, what say you now to my relation, am I worthy your beliefe or no? The King said, yes Reynard, and I beseech thee excuse my Iealousie, it was my ignorance which did thee euill: therefore forthwith make preparation that we may goe to this pit where the Treasure lyeth. The Fore answered: Alas my Lord, doe you imagine that I would faine goe with you: If it were so that I might goe without your dishonour, which I cannot doe, for you shall under-
stand

of Reynard the Fox.

stand, (though it be my disgrace) that when I began the Wolfe in the Devils name, would needes grow religious and turns a Monk: that then the permission of meate which was for five Monks, was too little for him alone. Whereupon he complained so pittifully unto me, that I commiserating his case (being my Kinsman) gaue him counsaile to runne away which he did: Whereupon I stand accused, and excommunicated under the Popes sentence: and am determined to morrow as soone as the Sunne riseth, to take my way towards Rome to be absolved, and from Rome I intend to crosse the Seas to the Holy Land, and will neuer returne againe to my native Country, till I haue done so much good, and satisfied for my sinnes, that I may with honour and reputation attend on your Highnes person. The King hearing this, said: Since you stand accused in the censures of the Church, I may not haue you about me, and therefore I will at this time take Kyward the Vate, and some other with me to Crekenpit: and only commend you Reynard, as you respect my fauour to cleare your selfe of his holinesse curse. My Lord (said the Fore) it is the onely reason of my going to Rome, neither will I rest night nor day, till I haue gotten a full absolution: the course you take is good (said the King) goe on and prosper in your intent and purpose.

CHAP. 13.

How Reynard the Foxe was honoured of all Beasts by the Kings commandement.

As soone as this conference was ended, the royall King mounted vpon an high Throne made in manner of a scaffold, made of faire squared Stone, and then commanded a generall silence amongst all his Subiects, and that every one should take his place according to his Birth, or dignitie in Office, onely the Fore was placed betwene the King and the Duene. Then said the King: Heare all you Noblemen, Knights, Gentlemen, and others of Inferiour quality: This Reynard one of the chiefe and chiefe Officers of my household,

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household, whose offences had brought him to the last term-
ning of his life, as being in the hands of the Law and Justice:



hath this day in requittall of those Injuries, done that Noble
and worthy service to the State, that both my selfe and my
Ancestors, stand bound to render him out best grace and favour:

The

of Reynard the Fox.

Therefore knowe that for diuers things best knowne unto our selues, we haue freely giuen pardon to all his offences, and restozed backe to him whatsoeuer to vs was confiscate: theretoze henceforth I command all of you, vpon the payne and hazard of your dearest liues, that you say le not from this day forward to doe all reuerence and honour not onely to Reynard himselfe, but also to his wife and Childzen: wheresoeuer or wheresoeuer you shall meete them, whether by night or by day: not that any one hereafter be so audacious, as to trouble mine eares with any moze complaints of him: for his wickednesse he hath cast behinde him, and will no moze be guilty of wrong doing: Which to effect the better, to morow very rarely he taketh his Journey towards Rome, where from the Pope he will purchaſe a free Pardon and Indulgence for all his offences, and then on Pilgrimage to the holy land. This speech when Tisellin the Raven heard, he flew to Brune, Hegerim and Tybert, and said: Wretched creatures how are your fortunes changed, or how can you endure to heare these tydings? Why Reynard is now a Countier, a Countailer, nay the prime fauorite: his offences are forgiuen, and you are all betray'd, and solde vnto bondage. Hegerim answered, it is impossible Tisellin, nor can such a thing be suffered: doe not deceiue your selues (said the Raven) for it is as true, as that now I speake it. When went the Wolfe and the Beare to the King: but the Cat sayd and was so fore affrighted with the netwes, that to purchase the fokes friendship againe, she would not onely haue forgiven the euils received, but willingly haue runne into a second hazard. But now Hegerim with great Spoile and pride tracing ouer the fields, came befoze the King and Quene: and with most bitter and cruel words, cringed against the King in such a passionate and impudent manner, that the King being infinitely moued with displeasure, caused the Wolfe and the Beare to be presently arrested vpon high Treason: Which sodainly was done with all violence and fury, and they were bound hand & foot so fast, that they could neither stir nor moue from the place where they were couched. Now when the Fox

The Marle:

By this Honour done to the Fox, you may see that when policy and wisdom get the vpper hand of their enemies, is neuer reſterd till it maketh knowne to the world the greatnes of their Conquest, both to expresse their ambition as also to extenuate their crimes and keepe their foes in awe with the goodly shewes of new grace & fauour. By the complaint of the Raven, is shewed the lealousie & feare of the weaker sort, and how in their troubles they flye to the Heads of Faction, & stirre them (with their own safeties) to preuent euils.

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ning of his life, as being in the hands of the Law and Justice:



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The

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 bound hand & foot so fast, that they could neither stir nor moue
 from the place where they were couched. Now when the Fox
 had euils.

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By the Wolfe had thus inthralled and intangled them. hee so laboured with
 & the Beares the Quene, that he got leaue to haue somuch of the Beares
 commitment, skinne, as would make him a large Scrip, for his Journey:
 is shewed,
 that whē men
 complaine in
 vnseasonable
 times, they
 euer runne
 themselues
 into most ap-
 parant and
 dangerous
 mischiefes.



Which granted: hee wanted nothing but a strong paire of
 shoes to defend his feete from the stones in his traualle:
 Where,

of Reynard the Fox.

Whereupon he said to the Quene, Madame, I am your Willing, and if it would please your Maiesty but to take it into your consideration, you shall finde that Sir Isegrim hath a payre of cyrcellent long lasting ones, which would you vouchsafe to bestow vpon me, I should pray for your Maiesties soule in all my trauaile, aboue any other benefitt, & the praieres of Pilgrimes are auailable for any charitable deuotion. Also mine Aunt, dame Arsewind, hath other two Shooes, which would your Maiestie bestow vpon me. I should be most infinitely bound to you, nor should you doe to her any wrong, because she goes seldome abroad. The Quene replied, Reynard I cannot perceiue how you can want such shooes, for your journey is full of labour and difficulty, both in respect of the stony mountaines and the grauelly wayes, and therefore you shall haue (though it touch their life neuer so nercely) from each of them a paire of Shooes to accomplish and finish your iourney.

CHAP. 14.

How Isegrim and his wife Arsewind had their Shooes pluckt off, for Reynard to weare to Rome.

After the Fox had made this petition, Isegrim was taken and his Shooes pulled off in most cruell and violent manner, so that all the veines and sinewes lay naked, nor durst the poore massacred Wolfe either complaine or resist. After he had bene thus tormented, then dame Arsewind his wife was used in the same manner on her hinder side, as her husband was on his fore side: which the Fox seeing, said to her in a scornefull manner: Deare Aunt, how much am I bound to you that takes all this paines for my sake? questionlesse you shall be a sharer in my pilgrimage, and take part in the pardon I shall bring from beyond the Seas by the helpe of your Shooes. Then Arsewind (though speech were troublesome to her) said, Well Sir Reynard, you haue your will accomplisht, yet heauen (I hope) will requite the mi'doer. This she said, but her husband and the Beare lay mute, for their wounds were grievous vnto them: and surely had the Cat bene there

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The Morall. also, he had not escaped some extreme punishment. The next morning very early, Reynard causing his Shoes to be well oyled, put them on, and made them as fit to his soete, as they were to the Wollfes, and then went to the King and Quene, and said, My dread Lord and Lady, your poore subiect boweth before your Maiesties, humbly beseeching your Highnesses, to vouchsafe to deliuer me my male & my staffe blest, according to the custome due vnto Pilgrimes.

This said, the King sent for Bellin the Ramme, and commanded him to say solemne Masse before the Fox, and to deliuer him his staffe and his male: but the Ramme refused, saying, My Lord, I dare not, for he hath confessed he is in the Popes curse: and the King said, What of that, haue not our Doctors tolde vs, that if a man commit all the sinnes in the world: yet if he repent himselfe, be shamed, doe penance, and walke as the Priests shall instruct him, that all is clearely forgiven him: and hath not Reynard done all this? When answere'd Bellin, Sir, I am loth to meddle herein, yet if your Maiestie will beare me harmlesse against the Bishop of Prendelore (my ordinary) and against the Archdeacon Loofwind, and Rapiamus his Officiall, I will effect your commandement. At this the King grew angry, and said, I come to be beholding vnto you: But when the Ram saw the King offended, he shooke for feare, and ranne presently to the Altar, and sung Masse, and vied many ceremonies ouer the Fox, who gaue little respect vnto them, more then the desire he had to enjoy the honour. Now when Bellin the Ram had finished his Devotions, he presently hung about Reynards neck his male, which was made of the Beares skinn, and put into his right soete a Palmers staffe: and thus being furnished of all things, he looked sadly vpon the King, as if he had bene loth to depart, and fained to wepe (though sorrow and he were neuer farther asunder) onely his worst griefe was, that all in that presence were not in the same case that the Beare and the Wolfe were: yet he took his leaue of them, and desired every one to pray for him, as he would pray for them: and then offering to depart (for knowing his owne knauey, he was very desirous to be gone.)

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of Reynard the Fox.

gene.) The King said, Sir Reynard, I am sorry he must part thus suddenly: Then said the Fox, There is no remedy my Lord, nor ought I be slowe in so deuout an adieu. Then the King take leave, and commaunded all that were about him (but the Beare and the Wolfe) to attend Reynard some part of his iourney. And hee that had scene how gallant and perfectable Reynard was, and how well his Raffe and his male became him: as also how fit his Shooes were for his feete, it could not haue cho' en but haue stirred in him very much laughter: yet the Foxe carried himselfe out wardly very demurely, how euer inwardly hee smiled at the abuses hee had cast amongst them, especially to see his enemies, sit to his attendants, and the King, whom hee had most palpably wronged with false lyes, to be ayding to all his vaine desires, did accompany him also, as if he had bene his companion, But the Foxe being now onward on his way, he said to the King, I beseech your Maiestie tremble your selfe no further, but in respect of your eares, and the danger might happen to your royall person, for you haue arrested two capitall traytors, who if in your absence they should get at liberty, the danger were infinite, which might inſue thereon. And this said, he stode upon his hinder feete, and entreated the beasts that were in his company, and would be partakers of his pardon, that they would pray for him: which done, hee departed from the King with an errouring sad and heavy countenance: Then turning to Kyward the Hare and Bellin the Ram, he said with a smiling countenance: My best friends, shall wee part thus soone: I knowe your loues will not leaue me yet: withe you two I was neuer offended, and your conuersations are a greable to my nature: for you are milde, louing and courteous, religious, and full of wise counsaile, euen such as my selfe was when I was first a Herluse: if you haue a few greene leaues, or a little grasse, you are well content, as with all the bread and flesh in the world, and you are temperate and modest: and thus with a world of such like flattering words hee enticed these two, that they were content to goe along with him.

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CHAP. 15.

How Kyward the Hare was slaine by Reynard the Fox, and sent by the King to the King.

THus marched these three together, and when Reynard was come to the gates of his stone house, he said to Bellin, Cousin, I will entreate you to stay here without a little, whilst I and Kyward goe in, for I would haue him a witnesse to some priuate passages betwixt me and my wife. Bellin was well content, and so the Fox and the Hare went into Malepardus, where they found dame Erminelie lying on the ground with her younglings about her, who had sorrowed exceedingly for the losse and danger of her husband: but when she saw his returne, her ioy was ten times doubled: But beholding his male, his staffe and his shoes, she grew into great admiration, and said, Deare husband, how haue you fared: to whom he deliuered from point to point, all that had passed with him at the Kings Court, as well his danger as release, and that now he was to goe a pilgrimage, hauing left Bruine and Segrim two pledges for him till his returne: as for Kyward, he said, the King had bestowed him upon them, to doe with him what they pleased, affirming, that Kyward was the first that had complained of him, for which questionlesse he vowed to be sharply reuenged. When Kyward heard these words, he was much apaled, and would faine haue fled away, but he could not: for the Fox had got betwixt him and the gate: who presently caught the Hare by the neck: at which the Hare cryed vnto Bellin for helpe, but could not be heard, for the Fox in a trice had torne out his throat: which done, he, his wife and young ones feasted therewith merrily, eating the flesh, and drinking blood to the Kings health: but Erminelie growning suspicious, said, I feare Reynard you mocke me: as you loue me, tell me how you sped at the Court. Then he told her how extremely he had flattered the King and Queene, and abused them with a fained promise of treasure that was not, in so much, that he knew when it should come to be reuealed,

the

of Reynard the Fox.

the King would seeke all the meanes he could to destroy him: And therefore Wile, said he, there is no remedy but we must Creale from hence, into some other Forrest where we may

The Morall:

By the killing of the Hare, is shewed that whereas men out of the lightnes and easinesse of their beliefe, doe giue credit to the enticements of their Aduersaries or new reconciled Friends, that euermore some inuitable mischiefe doth still follow such folly and imprudence. Also how easily a malicious malicious cause of quartell with such as are too weak for them, or as eye-sores stand betweene them and the end of their purposes, or are able to reueale & hinder their projects.

By the Rams carrying the



live in better safety: and in a place more fruitfull, where we Hares head shall haue all the delicate meats that can be wished for, close to the Lyon,

The pleasant History

and taking
vpon him to
Indite the
lettres which
he saw not is
discovered
that euer such
vaine glorious
pick-pu les of
other qualiti-
es doo cuer
carry their
owne shames
and disrepu-
tations, and
when they
looke for most
Honour or
renowne, they
reap nothing
but miserie,
scorne, and
disgraces.

springs, fresh rivers, coole shades, and wholsome ayre : here
I know is no abiding : and now I haue gotten my thumbe
out of the Kings mouth, I will no moze come within the dan-
ger of his tallents. Yet (said Ermelin) I haue no fancies to
goe from hence, to a place where I am utterly vnacquainted:
here we possesse all that we desire, and you are a Lord ouer
all that liues about you, and it is but an indiscret hazard to
change a certaine good for a hoped contentment : Besides we
are here safe enough, and should the King besiege vs neuer
so straightly, yet haue wee so many passages and by holes,
that he can neither cut from vs reliefe nor liberty. What
reason haue we then to fflye beyond Seas : but you haue sworne
it, that s my veration. Nay Dame (said the ffore) grieue
not at that, The moze forsworne, the lesse forloyme : Besides
I haue heard some say, that a forēt Dath is no oath, nor do
I make account that this Pilgrimage will anayle me a cruce.
And therefore I am resolued, and will not start from hence,
but follow thy counsaile : If the King doe hunt after me, I
will guard my selfe as well as I am able, and against his
pouer apply my policie : so that being forēd to open my
sacke, let him not blame me if hee catch hurt by his owne
fury.

All this while Good Bellin the Hamme at the gate, and
grew exceeding angry both against the ffore and the Dame, that
they made him wayte so long : And there ffore called out a
loude, for Reynard to come atway : Which when Reynard
heare, he went forth and said softly to the Ham, Good Bellin
be not offended, so: Kyward is in earnest conference with his
dearest Aunt, and entreated me to say vnto you, What if you
would please to walke before, hee would speedily ouertake
you, for he is light of foote, and speedier then you : nor will his
Aunt part with him thus sodainly, for shee and her Children
are much perplexed at my departure. I but (quoth Bellin) me
thought I heard Kyward cry for helpe : Now, cry for helpe?
can you imagine he shall receiue hurt in my house : scarce be
such a thought from you : but I will tell you the reason : As
sone as we were come into my house, my that Ermelin my
wif

of Reynard the Fox.

Wise understond of my Pilgrimage, presently the fell downe
in a swoone : which when Kyward sawe, he cryed aloude, O
Bellin come helpe my Aunt, shee dyes, she dyes: When said the
Kam, In sadness I mistooke the cry, and thought the Ware had
bene in danger. It was your too much care of him, said the
Fore, but before he should haue any Inury in my house, I
would leaue to respect either Wife or Children. But letting
this discourse passe, you remember Bellin that yesterday the
King and his Counsaile commanded me, that before I depar-
ted from the Land, I should send unto him two Letters which
I haue made ready, and will intreat you my dearest Cousen to
beare them to his Maiesty. The Kam answered, I would wil-
lingly doe you the seruice, if there be nothing but honourable
matter contained in your Letters: but I am unprouided of any
thing to carry them in. The Fore said, that is prouided for
you already, for you shall haue my male which you may con-
ueniently hang about your neck, I know they will be thank-
fully receiued of his Maiesty, for they contains matter of great
importance. Then Bellin promised to carry them: So the Fore
returned into his house, and tooke the male, and put therein
the head of Kyward, and brought it to the Kam, and gave him
a great charge not to looke therein, till it was presented to the
King, as he did expect the Kings fauour: and that he might
further Indear himselfe with his Maiesty, he bad the Kam
take vpon him the Inditing of the Letters, which will be so
pleasing to the King, that questionlesse hee will poynt vpon
you many fauours.

The Kam was exceedingly glad of this aduise, and thank-
ed the Fore, saying: That the fauours he did him should not
be requited, and I know it will be much to mine honour,
when the King shall thinke I am able to Indite with so great
perfection: for I know there be many in these daies as I ge-
norant as my selfe, that are risen to high promotion, onely by
taking vpon them the worth of other mens Labours: And
therefore why may not I runne the same course al'o: Yet I
pray you Reynard further aduise me: Is it meete that I take
Kyward the Ware along with me: O by no meanes (said the

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For) let him come after you, for I know his Aunt will not
yet part with him. Besides I haue other secret things to shew
par to him which may not yet be reuealed. This said, Belshazzar
tooke leaue of the For and went towards the Court, in which
Journey he made such speed, that he came thither before
noone : where he found the King in his Palace sitting a-
mongst the Nobility.



of Reynard the Fox:

The King wondered when he saw the Hamme come in with the male which was made of the Beares Skinne, and said: Whence comest thou Bellin, and where is the Fox, that you haue that male about you? Bellin answered: My dread Lord, I attended the noble Fox to his house, where after some repose, he desired one to beare certaine Letters to your Maiesty of infinite great importance, to which I easily consented. Whereupon he deliuered me the Letters inclosed in this male, which Letters my selfe had formerly Indyted, and I doubt not but are such as will giue your Highnes both contentment and satisfaction. Presently he commanded the Letters to be deliuered to Bocart his Secretary, who was an excellent Linguist and understood all Languages: that he might read them publikely: So he and Tybert the Cat tooke the male from Bellins necke, and opening the same: In stead of Letters they drew out the Head of Kyward the Hare, at which being amazed they said: Alas and alas what Letters call you these? Belene it my dread Lord here is nothing but the head of poore murdered Kyward. Which the King seeing (he said) alas how unfortunate was I to beleue the trayterous Fox? And with that being oppressed with anger, griefe and shame: he held downe his head for a good space, and so did the Quene also: but in the end shaking of his curled lockes, he groaned out such a dreadfull noyse, that all the Beates of the Forrest did tremble to heare it. Then spake Sir Firapell the Lybard, who was the Kings nextest kindman, and said: Why is your Maiesty thus bered in heart? this sorrow might serue for the Quenes fimerall, I doe beseech you asswage your anguish: are not you King and master of this Countrey, and are not all things subiect to your power? The King replide, Cousin this is a mischief beyond indurance: I am betrayed by a base villaine, and a traytor, and haue ben made to wrong and abuse my best friends and subiects, even those of my blood, and nextest counsell, I meane the stout Bruine and valiant Isegrim, whose wrongs speake loude to my dishonour, yet in my selfe I found an unwillingnesse thereto, only my Quenes pittie, working vpon the ca-

The pleasant History



knowe of my beliefe, hath made me guilty of that which will
 euermore grieue me. **W**hy (said the Lybard) what of all this,
 you are about your iniuries, and with one smile can salve the
 greatest wound that can be made in honour, you haue power
 to recompence, and what reputation is it that reward will not
 saluer? as for the Beare which lost his skin, the Wolfe
 and his wife dame Arsewind, that lost their shooes, you may
 in recompence (since Bellin hath confest himselfe a party in this
 foule murder) bestow him and his substance on the parties
 grieved: as for Reynard, we will all goe & besiege his Castle:
 and hauing arrested his person, hang him up by the law of
 Armes without further tryall.

CHAP. 16.

How Bellin the Ram, and his liengage, were giuen to the
 Beare and the Wolfe.

This motion of the Lybard the King consented, so that
 Sirapell forthwith went to the prison, where the Beare
 and

of Reynard the Fox.

and the Wolfe were, and said: My Lords, I bring you a free
and generall pardon from the King, with his loue, and a re-
cognition of your iniuries: which to recompence in some large



manner out of his Princely bounty, he is pleased to bestow
vpon you both Bella the Kiam and his whole generation, with
what;

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whatsoever they possesse, and is now confiscate to his Ma-
iesty, to hold from henceforth to you and yours til doomes day:
with full commission to slay, kill, and deuoure them whereso-
euer you finde them, be it in Woods, fields, or Mountaines.
And also the King granteth vnto you full power to hunt, kill,
or wound Reynard the Fox, wheresoever you find him, or
any of his lineage or generation: and of this great priuiledge
you shall receiue letters Patents at your pleasure, with onely
a reseruatiō of your fealty and homage to be due to his Ma-
iesty, which I advise you to accept, for it will redound much
to your honours. Thus was the peace made betwene the
King and these Nobles by the Lybard, and Bellinthe Hamme
was forthwith slaine by them, and all these Priuiledges doth
the Wolfe hold to this houre, nor could euer any reconcile-
ment be made betwene them and the Kams kindred. When
this peace was thus finished, the King for ioy thereof, pro-
claimed a feast to be held for twelue dayes after, which was
done with all solemnity.

So this feast came all manner of wilde Beasts, for it was
vniuersally known througħ the whole Kingdome, nor was
there wanting any delight or pleasure that could be imagined,
as musick, dancing, masking, and all Princely recreations:
as for seruicall meates, they were in that abundance, that the
Court seemed a stozz-house, which could not be emptied. Al-
so to this feast resorted abundance of feathered fowle, and all
other Creatures that held peace with his Maiesty, and no one
missing but the Fox onely. Now after this feast had thus
continued in all pompe the space of eight dayes: about high
nynne came Laprell the Comy before the King and Quene, as
they sat at dinner, and with a heauy and lamentable voyce,
said: My gracious and great Lord, haue pittie vpon my mi-
sery, and attend my complaint, which of great violence, force
and murther, which Reynard the Fox would yesterday haue
committed against me: as I passed by is Castle of Malepar-
dus, where standing without his gates, attired like a Will-
grime, I supposing to passe peaceably by him towards my
nest, he cross my way, saying his Beads so deuoutly, that I
sainted

of Reynard the Fox.

saluted him: but he returning no answer, stretcht forth his right foote, & gane me such a blow on the necke betwene the



By the giuing of Bellin vn to his enemies, is shewed that when simple men giue themselves to priu and vainglory, they are conuerted by their enemies & made slaues to shame and destruction.

By the complaint of the Cony, is shewed that whē the weak will belceue the faire shewes of the strong and cruell, & so commit their safeties to their enemies mercies, they seldome escape with life, or if they doe by some hidde prouidence, yet it is not without euer some maine either to their bodies or Reputations.

head and shoulders, that I imagined my head had bene stricken from my body: but yet so much memory was left me, that I leapt from his clauies, though most grievously hurt and wounded: that whē the

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euill m^e slee-
peth or see-
meth to au-
least power
or intent of
wickednes,
that then his
thoughts are
most busied &
laborious to
destroy the
innocent, and
the mischiefe
is more vio-
lent, then
when he lyeth
most apparat
and publisheth
himselfe
an open ene-
my, wherefore
the simple &
innocent
ought at such
time to bee
most feareful
and to keepe
the farthest
out of his
danger.

wounded. At this hee grieued extremely, because I had
ped: onely of one of my cares he utterly depriued me, whilst I
beseech your Maiestie in your royall nature to pittie, and that
this bloody murderer may not thus to afflict your poore
Subiects. Now whilst the Com was thus speaking to the
King, there came flying into the Court Corbant the Roke,
who comming befoze the King, said: Great King, I beseech
you vouchasse to heare me, and pittie the complaint I shall tel-
ter: so it is, that I went this morning with Sharbeacke my
wife to recreate our selues on the Heath, and there we found
Reynard the fore laid on the ground like a dead carcasse, his
eyes staring, his tongue lolling out of his mouth, like a dead
hound, so that we wondzing at his strange plight, began to
feele and touch his body, but found no life therein at all: then
went my wife (poore carefull soule) and laid her head to his
mouth, to see if he drew any breath: which shee had no sooner
done, but the soule murderer awapting his time, snatcht her
head into his mouth, and bit it quite off. At that I shrieked
out, and cried: Alas is me, what misfortunes are these: but
presently the murderer stait by, and reacht at me with such a
bloody intent, that with much trembling and anguish I was
faine to flie by to a tree, where I saw him deuoure by my wife
in such terrible manner, that the very thought is death to me
in the repeating.

This massacre finished, the murderer departed, and I
went to the place, and gathered the feathers of my lost wife,
which here I humbly present befoze your Maiestie, beseeching
you to doe me iustice, and in such manner to reuenge mine in-
jury, that the world may speake some of your great excellen-
cy: for thus to suffer your Lawes, Protections and safe Conduits
to be violated and broken, will be such disreputation and scan-
dall to your Crowne and Dignity, that your very neighbours
and Colleagues will note and point at your remissnesse:
besides the sufferance of the euill will make you guilty of the
trespasses which shall arise from such sufferance: But to your
great consideration I leaue it: since I know your Maiesties
store goodnes will make you carefull of your hono^r & royaltie.

of Reynard the Fox.

CHAP. 17.

How the King was angry at these Complaints, tooke counsaile for Reuenge, and how Reynard was forewarned by Grimbard the Brocke.

The royall King was much moued with anger when he heard these Couplaints both of the Concy and the Rooke, so that his eyes darting out fire, amongst the beames of Haicke, his countenance was dreadfull and cruell to looke on, and the whole Court trembled to behold him. In the end he said: By my Crowne and the truth I euermore reuence and owe vnto the Quenemy Wife, I will so reuenge the outrages committed against my Crowne and Dignity, that godnes shall adoe me, and the wicked shall dye with the remembrance: his fals hood and flattery shall no more get beliefe in me.

Is this his iourney to Rome and to the Holy land: are these the fruits of his Pale, his Staffe, and other ornaments becomming a deuout Pilgrim: Well he shall find the reward of his Treasons: but it was not my beliefe but the perswasion of my Quene, nor am I the first that hath bene deceiued by that soft gender, since many great spirits haue fallen through their Inticements. And thus said: He commanded all that were about him, both Noble, worthy, and euery discreet spirit to assist him with their Counsaile, and to lay him downe such sure ground for his reuenge, that his honour and royaltie might be anew requied, and euery offender made to know and feele the heauy price for their most vniust actions.

Hegrim the Wolfe and Bruine the Beare, heering the Kings words, were wonderfull well apaid, and doubted not but now to gaine their full reuenge against Reynard: yet still they kept silence and speake not a word. Insomuch that the King being much moued with their dunnesse: and noting that none durst freely deliuer their opinions: He began to bend his forehead: but the Quene after solemne reuerence said to the King: Mon Sire, pour Dieu ne croyez mie toutes

The pleasant History



choses qu'on vous dira, & ne Iures point legerement. Sir it is not the part of any excellent wisdom to beloue or protest in any thing, till the matter be made most apparant and pregnant to his knowledge: neither should both his eares be engaged to any complaynant, but one euer reserved to entertaine the defence of any accused: For many times the accuser excedeth

of Reynard the Fox.

ercedeth the accused in iniury. And therefore Audi alteram partem, to heare the other party is the act of perfect Justice: for my owne part howsoever I haue erred, yet I haue strong ground for my perswasion, and whether Reynard be good or bad: yet it stands with your Excellency not to proceed against him but by the true forme of your Lawes: for he hath no power to escape you, but must obey whatsoeuer your severity can impose vpon him. When the Queene had thus spoken Sirapell the Lybard to second her intreaty said: My Lord, the Queene hath spoken graciously, and I see not wherein your Maiesty can astray from her Iudgement: Therefore let him take the due tryall of your Lawes, and being found guilty of the trespasses wherof he is accused, let him be summoned: and if he appeare not before your seast be ended to cleare himselfe or submit to your mercy: then may your Highnes proceed against him as it shall seme best to your pleasure.

To this speeche Isegrim the Wolfe replied, Sir Sirapell, for my owne part, I thinke not any in this assembly, will dissent from your counsaile, so it may stand with the pleasure of my Lord the King: yet this I dare maintaine, that howsoever Reynard shall cleare himselfe of these and a thousand such like trespasses which shall be brought against him: yet I haue that lodged in my bosome, which shall approue he hath forfeited his life: but at this time his absence shall make me silent, onely touching the Treasure of which he hath informed his Maiesty to lye at Crekenpit in Husterloe, There neuer came a falsere information from the mouth of any creature: for it was a lye made out of malice to wrong me & the Beare, and get himselfe liberty to rob and spoyle all that passe by his house as now he doth: but notwithstanding I hold it meete, that all things bedone as shall seme good to his Maiesty or you Sir Sirapell: Yet this beleue, that if he had meant to haue appeared, he had bene here long since, for he had summons giuen him by the Kings messenger.

To this the King answered, I will haue no other course of summoning him, but command all that owe me allegiance, or respect mine honour, that forthwith they make themselves

The Moral.

The anger of the Lyon at the Foxes trespasses, shewes the disposition of a good Prince, which is ever moved & offended when his good subiects are iniured: and the perswasion of the Queene and the Lybard, shewes the true temperance which every Prince should vse, when he administreth iustice.

The moderate, yet biting words of the Wolfe, shewes the cunning malice of a subtil Foe, who be re such as are of this contrary faction, will conceale the violence of his malice: that

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so hee may ready for the warre: and at the end of sixe dayes appeare be-
 gaine a more quiet atten-
 tion, & then mixing his
 calme words with bitter
 promises and doubtfull in-
 iuries, doth the veriest
 hee can to poyson the
 reputation of him hee ha-
 reth.
 The Brookes going to the
 Fox, sheweth the office of a
 true friend, which both
 gueth warning & aduice
 to them they loue, when
 they see them runne into
 euill courses. The Foxe
 careless he sheweth the true
 nature of a desperate
 man. that when he hath
 plunged himselfe into the
 depth of euil, hath nothing
 but an audacious coun-
 tenance, and an impudent
 shew to make
 soze me with their Bowes, Gunnes, Bumbards, Pikes,
 and Halberts: some on horse-backe, some on foote, for I will
 besiege Mallepardus instantly, and destroy Reynard and his
 generation from the earth for euer: this if any dislike, let him
 turne his backe, that I may know him for mine enemy. And
 they all cryed with one voyce, we are ready to attend your
 Maiestie. When Grimbard the Brocke heard this determi-
 nation, he grew exceeding sorry (though his sorrow was des-
 perate) and stealing from the rest of the company, he ranne
 with all speede possible to Mallepardus, neither sparing bulsh
 nor byer, pale nor rayle: and as he went, he said to himselfe,
 Alas my deare Cynckle Reynard, into what hazards art thou
 drauone, hauing but one step betwixt thee and thy death, or
 at the best thine euerlasting banishment. Well may I grieve
 for thee, since thou art the top and honour of my house, art
 wise and politike, and a friend to they friends, when they
 stand in need of thy counsaile, for with thy sweet language
 thou canst inchant all creatures, but all is now bootlesse.
 With such manner of lamentations as these, came Grimbard
 vnto Mallepardus, and found his Cynckle Reynard standing at
 the Castle gates, who had newly gotten two young Pigeons
 as they came creaping out of their nest to try how they could
 learne to fly, But now beholding his Nephew Grimbard, he
 staide, and said, Welcome my best beloued Nephew, the only
 he I esteeme aboue all my kindred: Surely you haue runne
 exceedingly fast, for you sweate wonderfully: what newes
 man, how runne the squares at the Court? I said Grimbard
 exceedingly ill with you, for you haue forfeited both your life,
 honour and estate. The King is vp in armes against you
 with horse men, foote men, and souldiers innumerable: be-
 sides, Hegrim and Bruine are now in more fauour with his
 Maiestie, then I am with you, therefore it is high time you
 haue great care of your selfe, for their enuy hath toucht you
 to the quicke, they haue informed against you, that you are a
 thiefe and a murtherer: and to second their informations, La-
 prell the Com, and Corbrant the Woke, haue made harmful
 complaints

of Reynard the Fox.

complaints against you, so that but your shamefull death I
see no escape or freedom.

him seem in-
nocent, yet
euermore his
heart is nipt
with the
stinging of
his conscience
as oft as he
is alone,
which is the
torment of
euery secret
offender.



Tush (said the Fox) my deare Nephew, if this be the
worst, let no sorrow affright you: but let vs be cheerefull and
pleasant together, so; though the King and all the Court
should

The pleasant History

Should sweare my death, yet will I be exalted above them all: well may they prate and tangle, and tice themselves with their counsailes: but without the helpe of my wit and policy, neither can the Court or Cōmon-wealth haue any long continuance. Come then my best Nephew, let vs enter into my Castle and feast. I haue here a paire of fat Pigeons so; you, which are meate of pure and light digestion, I loue not any thing better, they are young and tender, and may be almost swallowed whole, for their bones are little other then blood, yet come I say, my wise Ermelin will receiue you kindly: but by all meanes reposit not to her of any dangers, for shee is of soft and melting temper, and it might strike her into sodaine sicknesse, for women are apt to entertaine griefe. When we haue feasted, I will then to morrow early in the morning goe with you to the Court, and if I can but attaine speech with the King, I shall gall some deepe enough, onely this I desire (deare Nephew) at your hands, that you will stand to me, as one friend and kinman ought to doe to another. Doubt me not (said Grimbard) for both my life & goods shall be at your seruice: I thanke you Nephew (said the For) and you shall not finde me ingratefull. Sir (said the Brocke) be bolde of this, that you shall come and make your answere before the Lords freely, for none shall dare to arrest or hold you, for that fauour the Quene and the Rybard haue purchast from the King. I am glad of that (said the For) nor care I then a haire for their worst malice. And this said, they went into Malepardus, and found Ermelin sitting amongst her younglings, who presently arose, and receiued the Brocke with all reuerence, and he on the other part saluted her and her children with all countesse: presently the two Pigeons were made ready, and they supped together, each taking their part, though none had so much as they desired: then said the For, Nephew how like you my chyldren Rossell and Reinardine, I hope they will doe honour to our family, they are to wardly I assure you, for the one lately caught a Chicken, and the other hath killed a Bullet: they are also good duckers, and can both deceiue the Lapwing and the Mallard: I tell you true, I dare already aduenture

of Reynard the Fox.

adventure them selves, onely I meane first to instruct them how to escape the Gins, and to prevent both the Huntsman and his Hounds: they are of the right haire Nephew, and like me, both in countenance and quality, they play grinning, in tangle soothing, and kill smiling: this is the true nature of the Foxe and in this they are perfit, which is great pride unto me.

CHAP. 18.

How the Fox repenting his sinnes, doth make his confession and is absolved by the Brocke.

VOCHE, said the Brocke, you may bee proud that you haue such toward children, and I reioyce because they are of my blood. I thanke you Nephew, (said the Foxe) but I know your iourney hath made you weary, therefore you shall goe to your rest: to which the Brocke consented, so they laid them downe vpon straw litters, and all slept soundly, but the Foxe whose heart was heauy with sorrow, lay studying how he might best excuse himselfe before the King. But all one as the morning began to rise from the tops of the Mountaines, he arose and went with Grimbard towards the Court, yet before hee went, hee tooke leave of his wife and children, and said, Thinke not mine absence long (deare wife and children) for I must goe to the Court with my Cousin Grimbard, and though my stay bee more then ordinary, yet take no affright thereat, and what things soeuer you heare, yet consider all things for the best, and bee carefull of your selues, and keepe my Castle close and well guarded: as for my selfe, doubt not but I will defeat all mine Enemies. Alas Reynard (said his wife) what moues you to take this suddaine iourney: the last time you were at the Court, you know what dangers you escaped, and you vowed neuer to see it againe. Will you now runne a second hazard? Dame (said the Foxe) the occurrences of the world are diuers and uncertaine, and wee are subiect to the strokes of fortune: but rest you content there is necessity that I goe, and I hope my stay shall not bee aboute five dayes

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at the uttermost, and so embracing his wife and children, he
tooke leave and departed: and as they iourneyed ouer the
Heath, Reynard said to the Brocke: Nephew, since I was last
shynen, I haue committed many sinnes, therefore I beseech
you let me make befoze you my confession, that I may passe
with lesse trouble throug my worst dangers.



of Reynard the Fox.

When he proceeded & said : it is true *Aspheto* that I made
the Beare receiue a great wound for the Pale which I did
cut out of his skinne, and I caused the Wolfe & his wife to



be stript of their shoes: I appeased the King onely with false-
hood, I sained a conspiracie against his *Maestries* life by the
Beare and the Wolfe, when the re was neuer any such deter-
mination:

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The Morall

The Foxes
flattering him-
selfe to the
Brock, shewes
the Art of all
dissemblers,
which ever
make deuotio
their cloake.
In the buy-
ing of the
Foale of the
Mare is shew-
ed, that whe
proud men
make Instru-
ments of wis-
dom then them
selues, & such
as affect not
their quali-
ties, the ser-
uice they do:
them is euer
to bring them
to mischief, &c. Also when
ambition or
conetousnes
blinde men,
& makes the
trust onely in
their owne
skill & know-
ledge, that
then they are
euer sodainly
ouer-taken
with one mis-
chise or ano-
ther, & made
a mocke and

mination: also I reported of great treasure to be hid in Hal-
sterioe, but it was as fabulous as the rest: I slew Kyward,
and I betrayed Bellin, I wounded the Cony, and I killed dame
Sharpbeake the Kookes wife. Lastly, I forgot at my last shift
one great deceit which I committed, but I will now reueale
it, and thus it was:

As I went talking with the Wolfe betwene Houthlust
and Euerding, wee beheld a goodly Bay Mare grazing, with a
blacke foale by her side, which was exceeding fat and wan-
ton: the Wolfe at that instant was almost dead for hunger, in
so much that he intreated me to goe to the Mare, and know if
she would sell her foale: I went and demanded the question:
The Mare said, she would willingly sell it for money: I then
asked the price: and she said the price was written in her
hinder foote, which if I pleased I might come and reade at my
pleasure: but I that well understood her politike anger,
said, It is truth that I cannot reade, neither doe I desire to
buy your foale, onely I am a Messenger from the Wolfe,
who hath a great desire to haue it. Then (said the Mare) let
him come himselfe, and I will giue him satisfaction: Then
went I to the Wolfe, and told him what the Mare said, assu-
ring him that if he pleased he might haue his belly full of the
foale, provided he could reade, for the price was written in
the Mares hinder foote. Reade (said the Wolfe) what should
aile me: I can, Cousin, reade both Latin, French, English,
and Dutch, I haue studied in Oxford, and argued with many
Doctors. I haue heard many stately playes, and sitten in the
place of Iudgement: I haue taken degrees in both the Lawes,
nor is there that writing which I cannot decipher: So desir-
ing me to stay for him there, away he went to the Mare, and
craued that he might see and reade the price of the foale: to
which the Mare consented, and lifting vp her hinder foot, which
was newly shod with strong Iron, and seuen sharpe naille
heads, as the Wolfe lookt thereon, she smote him so iust vpon
the forehead, that she threw him ouer and ouer, and he lay in
a dead swoond whilst a man might haue ridden a mile and
better, which done, away trotted the Mare with her Colt,
and

of Reynard the Fox.

and left the poore Wolfe all bloody and wounded, insomuch that he howled like a dogge: then went I to him and said, Sir Negrim, deare Cuckle how doe you, haue you eaten too much of the Coll: In dede you are vnkunde, that will giue me no part with you. I went your message honestly, mee thynkes you haue out-slept your dinner, god Cuckle tell me what was written vnder the Hares foote, was it in Pore or Rime: in dede I would faine know it: I thinke it was Pick-song, for I heard you sing: nay, you shew your Schollerchip in all the Arts.

Alas Reynard, alas (said the Wolfe) I pray you forbear to disdaine me, for I am extremely wounded, and mine anguish is so great, that a heart of flint would pittie me. The damned Hare on her long legges hath an Iron foote, and I toke the nayles to haue bene Letters, on which as I looked, she hit me so full on the head, that I thinke my skull is clonen. Deare Cuckle (said the Fox) is this truth which you tell me? beleeue it you make me wonder, why I toke you for one of the greatest Clarkes in this Kingdome: Tell I perceiue the old Prouerbe is now made good in you: The greatest Clarks are not the wisest men. Pore men sometimes may outslip them in iudgement, and the reason is, you great Schollers study so much, that you grow dull in that you so much ouerlabour. And thus with these mockes and taunts I brought the Wolfe within a haire breadth of destruction. And now faire Nephew, I haue unladed my conscience, and deliuered as many of my sins as I can call to my remembrance, wherefore I beseech you let me receiue absolution and penance, and then come what chaunce shall at the Court, I am armed against all dangers: then Grimbard said, your trespasses are great and haynous neuerthelessse who is dead must abide dead: And therefore here I freely absolue you vpon assurance of your hearty repentance: Onely the contempt you made in sending him Kywards head, and the abuse of so many falsehoods will lye heauy vpon you: Why (said the Fox) he that will liue in the world to see this, heare that, and vnderstand the third, must euer conuerse with affliction.

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No man can touch Honey but he must lick his fingers. I often feele touches of Repentance, but reason and our will are euer in continuall combat, so that I oft stand still as at my wits end, and cry out against my sinnes, feeling a destitution of them: But presently the world and her vanities appeare to me againe: and then I finde so many stones and rubs in my way, and the examples of the crafty Prelats, and rich Priests so inchant me, that I am forthwith taken againe: the world fills me with couetousnesse, and the flesh with wantonnes, so that loosing my good resolutions, I am onely for Hell and wickednes. I heare their singing, piping, laughing, playing, and all kinde of mirth, and I see their wordes and actions so contrary, that nothing is more incertaine & various: from them I learne my lying, and from Lords courts my flattery: for certainly Lords, Ladies, Priests and Clerkes, vse most dissimulation. It is now an offence to tell great men truth: And he that cannot dissemble cannot liue. I haue oft heard men speake truth, yet they haue still grac'd it with falshood: for vntruthes many times happen into discourse vnwittingly and without knowledge: yet hauing a handsome Garment, it euer goes for currant. (Deare nephew) it is now a fashion to lye, flatter, sooth, threaten, pray, and curse, and to doe any thing that may keepe the weake in subiection: who doe otherwise is held foolish: But he that cannot wimple falshood in truthes kerchiffe, hath neither Art nor cunning: But he that can doe it, and deliuer error without stammering, he may doe wonders: he may weare Scarlet, Gray, or Purple: he shall gaine both by the Lawes spirituall and temporall, and write himselfe Conqueror in euery designation. There be many that imagine they can lye neatly, but their cunning oft failes them: so that when they thinke to feede of the fat morsels, they slip quite besides their trenchers. Others are blunt and foolish, and for want of method marre all their discourses: But he that can giue to his lye a fit and an apt conclusion, can pronounce it without railing and make it as truth appeare faire and amiable: That is the man and worthy admiration. But to speake truth is

of Reynard the Fox.

no cunning, it neuer makes the Deuill laugh: to lye well and with a grace: to lift by wrong about right: to make mountaines and build Castles in the ayre: to make men Juggle and looke through their fingers, and all for the hope of gaine onely, This Nephew is an Art beyond expression: Per euer more of the end commeth misery and affliction. I will not deny but sometimes men may iest or lye in small things, for he that will speake all truthe, shall sometimes speake out of season, To play Placebo, may now and then be bozne with: for who so speakes alwayes truth shall finde many rubs in his way: men may erre for neede and mend it by counsaile, since no trespassse but hath his Mercy: nor any wisdom but at sometimes dulleth. Then (said the Brocke) Winkle you are so wise you cannot faile in any purpose, and I would growe enamored of you, your reasons so farre surpass my vnderstanding, there is no neede of your shift, for your selfe may both play the Priest and Confessor: you know the world in such sort, that it is impossible for any man to haile before you.

With these and such manner of discourses they held on their iourney towards the Court: yet the Fores heart (for all his faire shew) was sad and heauy, yet countenance be-
tray'd it not: but he past without amazement through all the presse of the Court, euen till he came vnto the presence of the King, and the Brocke march'd close by his side, saying: Winkle be not affraid but be of good chere, it is courage of whom Fortune is euer enamoured. Then (said the Fore) Nephew you say true, and your comfort anailles me, and so on he went, casting many disdainfull countenances on those hee lik'd not: As who would say, here I am: What is it that the proudest of you dare obiect against me: He held there many of his kinne which he knew loued him not, as the Otter; the Beaver, and diuers others which I will name hereafter: and many he saw which loued him. As soone as he was come in the view of the King, he fell downe humbly on his knee, and spake as followeth.

John Mordaunt of the Court of the King of France

Handwritten notes in the right margin, including a list of names and dates.

The pleasant History

CHAP. 19.

Row Reynard the Fox excused himselfe before the King,
and of the Kings answere.

That diuine power from whom nothing can be hid save
my Lord the King, and my Lady the Queene, and giue
them grace to know who hath right and who hath wrong, for



them

of Reynard the Fox.

there are many false thewes in the world, and the craft-
nance bewrayeth not the heart: which I wish were openly
reuealed, and that euery creatures trespasses shoud writt in
his forehead, albe it cost me the uttermost of my substance,
or that you (my soueraigne Lord) knew me as neerely as
my selfe, and how I dispose my selfe rarely and late, labour-
ing in your seruice. For which cause onely malice makes
all her complaints against me, striving to thrust me out of
your grace and fauour. Insomuch that out of my anguish I
must nedes cry shame vpon them which haue so deadly bely-
ed me. Nevertheless I know that you my Lord and soue-
raigne Lady, are so excellent in your Judgements, that you
will not be carryed away with falshoods: And therefore I
most humbly beseech your Maiesties, to take into your wis-
dome all things according to the right of your Lawes. For
it is Justice I looke for, & desire that he which is found gui-
ty may feele the waight of his punishment. For beleue it
deare Lord, it shall be knowne before I depart from your
Court who I am, that I cannot flatter but will shew my face
with an vnblemished forehead.

All they that were in the presence, shoud amazed & wondred
when the Fox spake so stoutely. But the King with a stately
countenance said: Reynard I know you are expert in fallac-
ies, but wordes are now too weake to relieue you. I beleue
this day will be the last of your glory and disgrace: for me I
will not chide you much because I intend you shall liue but
a short time: the loue you do beare me, you haue shewed to the
Coney and the Hooke, and your requitall shall be a short life
on earth. The ancient saying is, A pot may passe long to the
water, but in the end it comes broken home. And your evils
haue so long succeeded, that they will now pay you the hazard:
At these wordes Reynard was stricken into a great feare and
withd himselfe farre away, yet he bethought himselfe that
now he must beare the iow, what for me soueraine came:
whereupon he said (my soueraigne Lord the King) it is but
Justice that you heare me answer my accusations, for were
my faultes more painous then enuy can make them: yet equity
gives

The pleasant History

giues the accuſed leaue euer to answer. I haue with my counsaile done you seruice in former times, and may no lesse still : I haue neuer started from your Maestty, but walked by your side when others haue gone from your presence : If then mine enemies with their slanders shall preuaile against me, blame me not to complaine. Time hath bene it was otherwise, and time may bring it to the olde court, for the actions of good seruants ought not to be forgotten. I see here diuers of my kindred and friends which now make no value of me, whom I can appoyne goe about to depriue you of the best seruant you possesse : Can your Maestty imagine if I had bene guiltie in the least imagined crime, that I would thus voluntarily haue made my appearence euen in the throng of my enemies ? What had bene too much indignation; nor would the libertie I had, bene so easily subiected : But heauen be thanked I knowe mine Innocence, and dare confront my worst enemy. Yet when my kinsman Grimbold first brought me the tydings, I must confesse I was halfe distraict with anger, and had I not bene in the censure of his Church, I had appear'd ere they had lest complaining, but that delayed me. And I wandred with sorrow on the Heath til I met with my Uncle Martin, the Ape who farre exceedeth any Priest in Pastoral business, for he hath bene Attorney to the Bishop of Camericke any time this nine yeares : and seeing me in this great agony of heart, he said : deare cousin, why are you thus heavy in spirit, and why is your countenance dejected : grieve is easie to carry when the burthen is deuised amongst friends : for the nature of a true friend is to behold and relieue that, which anguish will not suffer the oppressed to see or suffer. When I answered him, you say true deare Uncle, and the like is my fortune, for sorrowe is without cause laid vpon me, and of that I am not guilty, I am accused by those I ranked with my best friends. As namely the Coney, who came yesterday to my house as I was saying Mattins. Saying he was traauelling towards the Court, but was at that time both hungry & weary : and therefore requested of me some meate, I willingly consented, took him in and gaue

of Reynard the Fox.

gaue him a couple of Sparchets and Swete Butter: For it was on Wednesday, on which day I neuer eate flesh. Besides it was then a fast, by reason the feast of Whitson-tide

The Morall.

The boldnes of the Foxes appeare in speech, shews the impudēce of a desperat offender that hauing nothing but his owne boldnes to bolster out his cause, still cries for iustice and hearing, not so much to excuse himselfe as to accuse others and by digressions & extrauagant speech to bring al those into disgrace which are able to testifie any thing against him.

By the tale of the Apes going for him to Rome, and his threatening the King is shewed the Ignorance & sottish blindness of the old times, which would thrall Kings vnder the Popes well



was neare. At which time we must haue clenfed and prepa-
red hearts, Et vos estote parati Now when hee had almost
99 2 well

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Curse, and make them
subiect to his
Commands
though they
were neuer so
heathenish &
Diabolicall
By his excu-
sing him of
the crimes a-
gainst the
Coney & the
Rooke, is she
wed that who
soeuer is re-
solved to doe
an ill act will
neuer make
conscience to
tella loude
Lye, nor is he
well refreshed himselfe, my youngest sonne Rossell came in
and offered to take away what he had left (for you know the
nature of Children is euer to be eating and craving.) But
presently the Coney smote Rossell on the mouth that his teeth
bled, and the poore soule fell downe almost in a swoone, whiche
when as Reynardine (my eldest sonne) beheld: hee sorow-
fully leapt to the Coney and caught him by the head, and
questionlesse had slaine him, had I not come to the rescue:
Which done, I went and gaue my sonne correction for his
fauld. But presently Laprell the Coney posts to my Lord
the King, and informes that I (my selfe) sought meanes to
murder him. Thus am I accused without cause and brought
in danger, that in truth haue best cause to accuse others. But
not long after this, came Corbante the Rooke flying to my house
with a sad noyse, and I demanding what he ayled: He an-
swered: Alas my wife is dead. I craved the cause, he said:
A dead Hare lying on the heath full of Mithes and Vermine,
of which she had eaten somuch, that the Worms had gnawed
her

of Reynard the Fox.

her thzofe in funder, and without fpeaking to me any more
 how, away he flew, leaving me much amazed, and now re-
 ports that I faw his wife, which how could I by any poffible
 meanes doe, considering he lieth in the ayre, and I walke a
 fote on the ground? Thus (deare Cuckie) you fee how I am
 flandered, but may be it is for mine olde finnes; and ther-
 fore I beate it with more patience; Then faid the Ape to me,
 Gephew, you fhall goe to the Court and difprove their falfe
 huds. Alas Cuckie (quoth I), it cannot be, for the Archdea-
 con hath put me in the Popes curfe, becaufe I gaue counfell
 to the Wolfeto forfake his holy orders, when he complained
 to me of his wimblenefe, to endure that ftia life and much
 fafting: of which Art I now much repent me fince he repays
 eth my loue with nothing but hatred and malice, and with all
 the flanders he can inuent, ftrixeth his Hainefly daily againft
 me. Thefe things (deare Cuckie) bring me to my wits end,
 for of neceffity I muft goe to Rome for abfolucion, and in
 mine abfence what iniury may happen to my wife and chil-
 dren, thoughh the malice of thefe bloody wretches, any one may
 gueffe: whereas on the other part were I free of the Popes
 curfe, then I could goe to the Court, and plead mine owne
 caufe, and turne their malice into their owne bofomes.

Then faid the Ape, Coufin call off your fozrow, for I know
 the way to Rome well, and am experienced in thefe bufineffes,
 for I am called the Bifhops Clarke, therefore I will goe thi-
 ther and enter a plea againft the Archdeacon, and in fpirit of
 his will, bring you from the Pope a well feal'd abfolucion;
 Tut man, I haue many great friends there, as mine Cuckie
 Simon and others, Prenzout, Wayt, Scath, and the like, all
 which will ftand vnto mee: besides, I will not goe unfur-
 nift of money, for I know matters are beft heard with gifts,
 and the law hath no fote to walk on but money: a true friend
 is tryed in neceffity, and you fhall finde me without difsem-
 bling: therefore call off your grieve, and goe to the Court as
 fane as you can, for I will prefently to Rome, and in the
 meane time heere I quit you of all your finnes and offences,
 and onely put them vpon my felfe: when you come to the

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their lips.
By the flight
of the cony &
the Rooke, is
shewed how
some the
weak are ter-
rified & dan-
ted with the
threatings
of the strong
and mightie,
that it is bet-
ter to sit down
with wrong,
then to con-
tend with one
that holdeth
too strong a
party. And al-
so how by such
advantage
the offender
takes heart,
and thereon
grounds the
strength of
his greater
Innocence.
By the Lyons
last accusati-
on, and the
Foxes detec-
tion, is shew-
ed, that whe-
ther truth and au-
thority stand
vp against the
wicked, that
then stung
with his own
conscience, he
is able to a-
bide no lon-
ger, but with

Court, you shall finde there dame Ruknaw my wife, her two
sisters, and my three children, with diuers others of our fa-
mily. I pray you salute them from me, and shew them mine
occasions: my wife is excedding wise, and she shall finde that
her distressed friends shall not shrink when I can helpe them.
I know she is faithfull, and as behoues her, will neuer leane
her friend in danger. At the vttermost, if your oppression be
more then you can beare, send presently to me to Rome, and
not an enemy that you haue, be it King, or Quene, or Sub-
iect, euen from the highest to the lowest, but I will presently
put them into the Popes curse, and send backe such an Inter-
diction, that no holy or sacred duty shall be perfozmed till you
haue right and Iustice restozed you.

This assure your selfe I can easily perfozme, for his holy-
nesse is very olde and little regarded, and onely now Cardinal
Pure-Gold beareth all the sway in the Conclauē, as being
young, and rich in many friends: besides, he hath a Contu-
bine, of whom he is so fere enamoured, that he denies no-
thing she demaundeth: This Lady is my Pièce, and will doe
whatsoeuer I request her: therefore Cousin, goe boldly to the
King, and charge him to doe you Iustice, which I know he
will, since he vnderstands the Lawes are made for the vse of
all men.

This (my Soueraigne Lord the King) when I heard him
speake, I smiled, and with great ioy came hither to relate vnto
you the truth: therefore if there be any Creature within this
Court, that can charge mee with any trespassse whatsoeuer,
and proue it by testimony as the Law requireth, or if other-
wise, he will oppose himselfe against mee, person to person,
graunt me but a day and equall lists, and in combat I will
maintaine my innocēce against him, provided he be equal to
me in birth and degree: this law hath euer hitherto stood con-
stant, and I hope neither in me, for me, or by me, it shall now
be broken.

When all the assembly of Beasts heard this; they were
dumbe, and amazed to behold his stoutnesse: as for the Cony
and the Rooke, they were so scared they durst not speake, but
priuately

of Reynard the Fox.



privately stole away out of the Court, and being sure on the silence and
 plaine, they said, This duellish murderer hath such Art in downe cast
 his falshood, that no truth can looke with better countenance, looke, hee
 which onely our selues know, but haue no other witnesse, shewes plain-
 therefore it is better we depart, then try combat with him, ly the guilt
 which is so much too strong for vs, and so away they went. wch lyes
 within him.

Ifegrim the Wolfe and Bruine the Beare, were very sad
 when they saw these two forsake the Court: whereupon the
 King said, If any will appeale the Fore, let him come forth,
 and he shall be heard: Yesterday we were troubled with com-
 plaints, where are they to day? here is the Fore ready to an-
 swere. Then said the Fore, My Soueraigne Lord, absence
 makes impudent accusers bold, when presence daunts them,
 as your Highnesse may see both by the Copee and the Woke:
 What it is to trust the malice of these Courtiers, and how
 soone they may confound good men but for me it matters not,
 neuertheless had they (at your Maiesties commandement)
 but aske me forgiveness: I had quickly cast all their offences
 behind

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behind me, for I will neuer shake hands with charity, nor euer hate or complaine of mine enemies: my reuenge I leaue to heauen, and Iustice to your Maiestie. When said the King, Reynard, you speake well if the inward heart be like the outward shew, yet I feare your grieffe is not uch as you expresse it: It farre surmounts it said the Fox: No (quoth the King) for I must charge you with one soule treason, which is, when I had pardoned all your great transgressions, and you had promised me to goe a Pilgrimage to the Holy land: when I had furnished you with malle, with steele, and all things fitting that holy order, then in the greatest despite you sent me backe in the malle by Bellin the Ham the head of Kyward the Hare, a thing so notoriously to my disgrace and dishonour, that no treason can be fouler. This you haue no colour to demie, for Bellin (our Chaplin) at his death revealed the whole proceesse, and the same reward which he then gained, the same you shall receiue, or else right shall faile me.

At this sentence Reynard grew so sore afraid, that he knew not what to say, but looked with a pitifull countenance vpon all his kindred which stood round about him: his colour went & came, and his heart fainted, but none lent him either hand or foote to helpe him: then the King said, Thou dissembling and false Traytor, why art thou now dumbe? But the Fox being full of anguish, fetcht a sigh as if his heart would haue broke, so that every Beast pittied him, saue onely the Beare and the Wolfe, which much reioyced to behold his sorrow.

CHAP. 20.

How Dame Rukewaw answered for the Fox to the King, and of the Parable she told.

DAME Rukewaw the shee Ape (being Aunt vnto Reynard and a great fauorite of the Princes) was much grieved when she saw this distraction, and it was well for the Fox that she was in the presence: for she was exceeding wise, and durst boldly speake: and therefore rising vp (after reuerence done) she said, My Lord the King, you ought not to be posselt with

of Reynard the Fox.



with anger, when you sit in iudgement, for it becommeth not
 Nobility to be void of reason: it is discretion which should
 only accompany you in that reason: for mine owne part I
 thinke I know the lawes as wel as some which weare fur to
 Colours, for I haue read many, and put some in v'se: It is
 well known, I had euer in the Popes Palace a b.d of strait
 when

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The Morall. When other Beasts lay on the bare ground, & I was ever suf-

fered to speake freely without interruption, because I talke
By the shew of the
Apes answer-
ing for the
Foxe, is shew-
ed, how apt
weak women
are to be flatter-
ed into a
my b liefe, in
wh ch they
may either
expres their
p tty, or gain
glory. Also it
shewes the
verifying of
the colde Pro-
uerbe, That a
Friend in
Court, is ever
worth a pou-
nd in a mans
purse.

By the vio-
lence of her
defence, is
shewed, the
true nature
of a woman
that euer-
more runs in
to extremes,
and so shee
may doe the
good or euill
she intends,
will not keep
any thing co-
ceald, which
may any way
work for her
purpose: nor
yet any thing
not beyond mine experience. It is Senecas opinion, that Prin-
ces are bound to do Justice to all men, nor may the law waiver
or halt with any partialty. I doe not thinke but if every
man which standeth here should call to account al the actiōs of
his life, he coulde not chuse but pittie much the estate of my p^{re}-
sint Cousin Reynard, and therefore I wish every one to know
himselfe, for none so sure but they may fall, and so him that
neuer erred, he is so good he needeth no amendment, To doe
amisse and mend it by counsaile, is humane and manly: but
to tye passe and still gallop forward in iniquitie, is deuillish
and unsufferable: the holy Bible saith, Be mercifull, and iudge
not least you be iudged. And in another place when the Pha-
rases brought a woman taken in adultery, and would haue
stoned her to death, asking our Lord what he said thereto: he
answered: Which of you all is without sinne, let him cast
the first stone: but they all departed and left her, In mine
opinion it is so here to day, for here be many that finde straws
in others eyes, but see not beames in their owne: he that fal-
leth off, and in the end ariseth and commeth to mercie, cannot
be said to be damned: Goodnesse neuer forsaketh her owne
seruants. This counsaile, would some take to their hearts,
the day would not appeare so darke as it doth to my Cousin
Reynard. It is well knowne that both his Grandfather and
Father euer bare greater reputation in this Court, then ei-
ther Bruine or Negrim, or their whole generations. Alas,
when haue their counsailes or wisdomes bene worthy to
haue held comparison with those of my cousin Reynards? why
the passages of the world are to them Prophecies which they
vnderstand not, and the Court is turned topsie turvy by his
ab'sence: the euill are now aduanced, and the good suppressed:
but how this can long indure I see not, since the end of their
labour is but the ruine of your Maiesty.

To this speech the King made this an swere: Dame, had the
fore done that offence to you he hath done to others, your ex-
cuse would couch in another nature: you cannot blame me to hate

of Reynard the Fox.

hate him, since it is onely he which breaketh my lawes and covenants: you haue heard him accused of theft, murder and treason, how can you then defend him: if you will needes make him your Saint, then set him upon the Altar & doe him worship, but beleue it there is no one good thing in him: and how euer you imagine, yet search him and you shall finde him rotten and deformed: there is neither kinsman nor friend (but your selfe) that will assist him, and therefore your violence drawes my greater wonder. What companion hath he that euer thined by his society, or whom hath he smild on, that his taile hath not after dashed out the eye of?

To this the the Ape replied: My Lord, I loue him, and haue euer borne him a singular reuerence, and I can well recount one noble and good action he did in your presence: for which then you thanked him, though it be now forgotten: yet the heaviest thing should euer wey the most, and men should keepe a measure in their affections, and not hate, nor loue with violence, since constancy is the greatest ornament of a Princely nature. We should not praise the day til the evening come, nor is good counsell anailable but to those which meane to pursue it.

I remember about some two yeares since, there came to this court a man and a serpent, to haue iudgement in a doubtful controuersie: for the Serpent attempting to go through a hedge, was taken by the neck with a snare, so that there was no way for him to escape with life: A certaine man passing by, the Serpent called and cried vnto him, and desired his helpe, or else he should perish presently. The man taking pittie of him (said) If thou wilt faithfully promise mee, neither to doe me hurt with thy tooth or taile, or other payen about thee, I will releaue thee. The Serpent presently swore he would not, neither at that time, nor any time hereafter: so the man vnloosed him and set him free, and they went sooth and traiailed together a long season.

At the last the Serpent grew exceeding hungry, & rushing vpon the man offered to kill him: but the man started aside, and said: What meanest thou to doe: hast thou forgotten

vnurged, which may disgrace those that are of the contrary faction, as may appeare by the tale of the man and the serpent, in which the sheweth the wisdom of the fox, and the folly and disability of the Beare, the Wolfe, & the rest of the foxes enemies.

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thine oath, the Serpent replied no : but I may iustly kill thee
 since I am compelled thereto by hunger , which cancelleth all
 obligations: Then the man said, if it be so, yet giue me leave to
 liue till we may meete with the next passenger, which may
 iudge the controuersie,

The Serpent agreed thereto : so they traualled till they met
 with

of Reynard the Fox.

with Tiselin the Raven and Slinopere his Sonne : to whom relating the difference, the Raven adiudged that the Serpent should eate the man, hoping that he and his Son should get a share also. But the man said, how shall he that is a robber and liues by blood iudge this cause : it must not be one but diuers, and such as knowes both Law and equitie that must iudge this contention : the Raven is neither Just nor indifferent.

Then they travelled till they met the Beare & the Wolfe, vnto whom also they tolde the matter, and they adiudged against the man likewise. Then the Serpent began to cast his venome at the man, but the man leapt away, and said you doe me wrong thus to attempt to kill me : And the Serpent said, hath not the Iudgement gone twice on my side : Yes (said the Span) by such as are furtherers themselves, and such as neuer kept promise : But I appeale vnto the Court, let me be tryed by your King, and what Iudgement he giueth I will willingly abide. To this all consented : So they came to the Court before your Maiesty, and the Wolfes two Children came with their Father, the one was called Empty-belly, the other Nauell-full, because they sought to deuoure the Span : So the full processe of the matter was declared to your Maiesty : Both the Spans kindnesse and couenant, the Serpents danger and fait-hbreach, occasioned through the extremity of hunger. remember how much your Highnes was perplext with their difference, and all your Counsaile also : for the Spans sorrow, the Serpents hunger : the mans goodness, and the Serpents ingratitude, equally raised much pittie in your bosome. But in the end such doubts rose, that not any in your Court was able to iudge it. At the last when no helpe could bee found, Then you commanded my kinsman Reynard to discharge the busines, then was he the Oracle of the Court, nor was any thing receiued but what he propounded : But he tolde your Maiesty it was impossible to giue true Iudgement according to their relations, But if he might see the Serpent in what manner he was fettered, and the greatness of his danger, then he knew well how to giue Iudgement therein :

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therein. Then you commended him, and called him by the title of Lord Reynard, approuing that to be done which he had spoken.

Then went the man and the Serpent to the place where the Serpent was snar'd, and Reynard, commanded the Serpent to be fastened as befoze in the snickle, which being done, then said your Maiesty, Reynard what Iudgement will you now



giue? And he replied, They are now my Lord in the same estate they were befoze at their first incounter, they haue neither wonne nor lost: Therefore this is my censure if it be your Maiesties pleasure, If the man will now loose and vnbinde the Serpent vpon the same promise and oath made formerly vnto him, he may at his pleasure: But if he thinke that hunger or other inconuenience will make him breake his faith, then may the man goe freely whither he will, and leaue the Serpent bound and inthralled as he first found him: so it is fit that ingratitude be so repayed. This Iudgement

of Reynard the Fox.

ment your Maieſty then applauded for moſt excellent, & held
the wiſedome of the Foxe unlimited, learning him the pre-
ſeruer of your Honour. When did euer the Beare or Wolfe
the like? they can howle or ſcound, ſtrale, robbe, and eate ſat
mozels make their guts cracke with others ruines: and
condemne him to death which takes a Chicken: but them-
ſelues which kill Kine, Oxen, and Hozes, & they goe ſafe
and be accounted as wiſe as Salomon, Auicen or Aristotle,
and their dares and Statutes muſt be read for monuments.
But if they come where vertue is to be exerciſed, they are the
firſt which retreat, and let the ſimple goe for moſt, whileſt they
follow in the retreat with ſhame and cowardice. Theſe (my
Lord) and their like, are the ſcoles of the corrupt times, yet
deſtroy Townes, Caſtles, Lands and People: nor care they
whoſe houſe berneth, ſo they may warme them by the fire: for
it is their profit onely at which their aime bendeth. But Rey-
nard the Foxe and all his family haue euer made the honour
of the King their renowne and aduancement, and applyed
their counſaile to doe him ſeruice, not pride and boasting: this
hath bene and is his exerciſe though it now be thankleſſe.
But time I hope will produce whoſe merit is greateſt: Your
Maieſtie ſaies his kindred is all fallen from him and ſtart at
his Fortune: would any but your Highnes had affirm'd it:
you ſhould then haue ſcene there could not be a thing of grea-
ter falſhood: But your grace may ſay your pleaſure, nor will
I in any word oppoſe you: for to him that ſo durſt doe, would
both he and we bend our forces. It is knowne we dare fight,
nor are we deſcended of any baſe generation: Your Highnes
may call to minde the worth of our Pedigree, and how dearly
from time to time they haue reſpected him willing euer to lay
downe their liues & goods for the ſafety of their noble kinſman
Reynard. For my owne part I am one my ſelfe, and albe I
am the Wiſe of another, yet for him I would not ſticke to
ſpend my deareſt blood. Beſides, I haue three ſonnes growne
Children, which are knotene valiant and ſtrong in armes, yet
for his ſake I wou'd aduenture them all to the uttermoſt re-
till. Albe I loue them with that deare affection that no Mo-
ther

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ther both excēde me : my first Dorne is called Bitelus which is most active and nimble, my second, Fulrumpe, the third is a Daughter called Hatener, a gyf lethat can looke a mans bea, and picke out lice moze nimbly then all the combes in Chri- stendome : And these thre are louing and deare to one ano- ther : and with that she called them forth into her, and said :



Come my dear Children and stand with your kinsman the Noble Reynard, and with you come all the rest of our ancient family, and be all petitioners to the King, that he will doe to Reynard the equitie of his Lawes and kingdome. Then presently came forth a world of other Beasts, as the Squirell, and the fyret : for those loue Pullaine as well as Reynard doth. Then came the W'ter and Panterrote his wi'e, which I had almost forgotten, because in former time they had taken part with the Beare against the fore, but now they dare not but obey Dame Rukenaw, for they stood in awe of her wisdom and greatnes : And with the'e came about twenty other

of Reynard the Fox.

her Beasts for her sake and stood by Reynard. Then came also dame Atrot and her two Sisters, the Wiesel and Hermel the Asse, the Backe, the water Cat and many others, to the number almost of an hundred, and stood by Reynard with such affection as if his trouble did equally concerne them. Then said the she Ape: My Lord the King, now you may see that my Kinsman hath friends which dare avow him and we are your true and loyall Subiects, which will neuer faile to doe you faithfull seruice. Therefore let vs with one voyce begge of your Maiesty, that Reynard may haue Justice: and if he be not able to disproue his adueraries, and cleare the crimes imputed against him, let the Law passe, for we will not mur-
mure to see his destruction.

Then said the Quene to Rukenaw: Thus much I tolde vnto his Maiesty yesterday, but his anger was so great he would not giue eare vnto me. Also the Lybard said, Sir you must iudge according to witnes, for to be gouern'd by will is tyrannous and ignoble. Then answered the King, it is true you informe me: but the disgrace done to my particular selfe in Kywards death and others informations, so rob'd me of patience, that I had no leasure to looke backe either to Law or reason: Therefore now let the Fore speake boldly, and if he can iustly acquit himselfe of the crimes laid against him, I shall gladly restore him his liberty, and the rather for you his deare friends sake, whom I haue euet found faithfull and loyall.

How infinitely glad was the Fore when he heard these words, and said in himselfe, Thankes my noble Aunt a thousand times, thou hast put me new blossomes on my dry'd roses, and set mee in a faire path to liberty. I haue one good foot to dance on: and I doubt not but to vse my Art of dissimulation so brauely, that this day shall be remembred for my renowne and victorie.

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CHAP. 21.

How Reynard excused himselfe of Kywards death, and all other imputations, got the Kings fauour, and made a relation of certaine Jewels.



Then spake Reynard the Foxe to the King, and said: Alas my soueraigne Lord, what is that you said? Is good Kyward the Hare dead? Where is then Bellin the Ramme, or what did he bring to your Maiesty at his returne? For it is certaine I deliuered him thre rich and inestimable Jewels. I would not for the wealth of India they should be detained from you: The chiefe of them I directed to you my Lord the King, the other two to my soueraigne Lady the Quene. But (said the King) I receiued nothing but the Head of poore murdered Kyward, for which I executed the Ramme, hauing confest the deede to be done by his aduise and counsaile. Is this truth (said the Foxe?) then woe is me that euer I was bozne,

of Reynard the Fox.

home, for there is left the goodliest Jewels that euer were in the possession of any Prince living: would I had dyed when you were thus defrauded. For I know it will be the death of my Wife, nor will she euer henceforth esteeme me. Then said the she Ape: deare Nephew, why should you sorrow thus for transitory wealth? Let them goe, onely discourse what manner of Jewels they were, it may be we shall finde them againe: If not, the Magician Dr. Alkerin shall labor his boxes and search all the corners of the earth. Besides, whoſoever detaines them, shall be curst in all Parishes till here stoze them to the Kings Maieſty, O Aunt (said the Foxe) doe not perswade your selfe so, for whoſoever hath them, will not restore them to gaine an Empire, they are so goodly and precious: yet your words doe something appease me. But whom shall we trust in this corrupt age, when euen Sanctity it selfe walkes maskt and mistaken? And then fetching a deepe sigh with which he gilded his dissimulation: he proceeded on and said, harken all you of my stocke and lynage, for I will here discouer what these rich Jewels were, of which both I and the King are defrauded. The first of them (and which indeed I intended to his Maieſty) was a Ring of fine and pure gold, and within the Ring next the finger, were engrauen Letters enamelled with Azure and Sables, containing thre Hebrew names. For my owne part I could neither reade nor spell them, but Dr. Abrion of Trere, the excellent Linguist, who knoweth the Natures of all manner of Herbs, Beasts and Synerals, To this famous Jew I shewed the Ring once, and hee assured me, that they were thoe thre Names which Seth brought out of Paradise, when he brought to his father Adam the Oyle of Olue. And whoeuer shall weare these thre Names about him, shall neuer be hurt by Thunder or Lightning, neither shall any Witchcraft haue power ouer him: He shall not be tempted to doe any sinne, neither shall heaſe or colde euer annoy him. Upon the top of the Ring was encheuſt a most precious Stone of thre seuerall colours: The first like red Chryſtall, and glittering like fire, and that with such brightnes, that if one had occasion to Journey by night,

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The Morall.

By the elation which the Fox made of the jewels & their feuerall vertues & riches, is shewed the policy of the wicked which are euer prepared of those bayts which they know will soonest catch the mindes of th^e they are, to entangle as wealth, health honor, & vertue, all which he lodged in those jewels. As for the storres obtained in them, the Fox doth moralize them himselfe, shewing in them feuerally the imputations he wold haue the Ly^o know to be in his enemies, and such examples are euer more bitter to a crooke
more he



the light thereof was as great as that at Noone day. The other colour was white and clere as if it had bene burnished and the vertue of it was to Cure any blemish or sozenesse in the eyes, or any part of the body: Also (by stroaking the place agriued therewithall) it presently cured all manner of swellings, head-ache, or any sicknesse whatsoever: Whether it were

of Reynard the Fox.

weere deuornde, weakeneth of stomacke, chollick, stone, strong, gullet, & fistula, or Canker, either outwardly applied as aforesaid, shewed, or inwardly by steeping the stone in water, and then drinking the same the last colour was greene like grasse, mixed with a few small spots of purple: and the learned affirmed for truth, that whosoever weares this stone about him, conde neuer be vanquished by his enemies, & that no creature were he neuer so strong and hardy, but would yeld vnto him, and he should be victor day and night in all places: againe, as, farre as one boze it fasting, into what company so euer he chanced (albe his worst enemies) yet should he be of them infinitely beloued, nor should any anger or euill turne be remembred: Also if one should be naked in a vast wilde field against an hundred armed enemies, yet should not his heart faile him, but he should come off with honour and victory: onely he must be wisely bryd, and of no churlish disposition, for the King gaue no vertue to any which was not a true Gentleman. Now all these vertues considered, I thought my selfe unworthy to keepe it: and therefore I sent it to you my Lord the King, knowing you to be the excellentest of all creatures liuing, and one on whom all our liues depend, and therefore fittest to be guarded with so rich a Jewell.

This King I found in my Fathers treasure, and in the same place also I found a Combe and a glasse Mirror, which my wife desired of me: they were Jewels of great wonder and admiration: these were sent to my Lady the Quene, because of her grace and mercy extended towards me: To speake of the Combe it can neuer be too much praised, for it was made of the bone of a noble beast named Panthera, which liueth betwene the greater India and earthly Paradise: he is so goodly and faire of colour, that there is no beautifull colour vnder heauen, but some splendour thereof appeares in him: also the smell of him is so delicately swete and wholesome. that the very sauour cureth all infirmities, and for his excellent beauty and rare odour, all other beasts attend and follow him, for he is the Physician to all their sicknesses. This Panthera hath one faire bene broad and shine, which whensoever his brast is

minde of the hearers, then any violent speech or insinuation whatsoeuer.

By the repeating of his & his Fathers seruices, is the wed, the subtil insinuation of offenders, which to extenuate, present crimes call to minde their good deedes past, not so much for the memory of the good example, as to beg a new reward, though it haue been neuer so often payd for for noble spirits haue ever a tender feeling, & are soone toucht with the remembrance of any good turne receiued, for it is an obligation they seldome cancell.

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flaine, all the vertues of the whole beast resteth in that bone,
which can neuer be broken, neither euer rot, consume or perishe,



either by fire, water, or other violence : yet is so light, a small feather may poise it : the smell of it hath that vertue, that who soeuer sends it, taketh delight in no other smell whatsoeuer, and they are presently eased of all manner of diseases and infirmities, and the heart is chearefull and merry euer after.

This Combe is polished like vnto fine silver, and the tye of it be small and straight, and betwene the great tye and the small in a large field of space, there is grauen many an Image, subtilly made, and cunningly enamelled about with fine gold : the field is checked with Sables and Silver, and enamelled with Cybor and Azure, and therein is contained the story how Venus, Iuno, and Pallas stroue for the golden Ball in the mountaine Ida, and how it was put vnto Paris, to giue it to the fairest of them.

Paris at that time was a Shepheard, and kept his flockes
with

of Reynard the Fox.

with Oenon on that hill, and aske as hee had receiued the Ball, Iuno promised, if he would bestowe it on her, she would make him the richest man in the world. Pallas said, if she might haue it, to make him the wisest man in the world, and the most fortunate against his enemies: But then Venus said, What woldst thou wealth, wisdom, or valour? art thou not Priams sonne? Hectors brother, which haue all Asia vnder their power? Art thou not one of the heires of mighty Troy? come giue me the Ball, and I will giue thee the goodliest treasure of the world, and that shall be the fairest Lady breathing, the whose like no Sunne shall euer againe behold, so shalt thou be richer then riches, and climbe aboute all in glory: that is the wealthy none can praise too much, since beauty is that heauenly Elyxar, which turnes all things in man to ioy and contentment.

When Paris heard this, he desired to know the Lady, and Venus said it is faire Hellen of Greece, the wife of King Menelaus, she that is the Iem of the world, the treasure of beauty, and the glory of all eyes which behold her: then presently, Paris gaue her the Ball, and confirm'd her fairer then the other Goddesses. Then in another place was figured, how he wonne Hellen, brought her to Troy, the solemnity at the marriage, the honour at the triumphes, and all things else contained in that large story.

Now for the Glasse-Spyre, it was not inferiour to either of the other: for the glasse which stode thereon was of such vertue, that men might see & perceiue therein whatsoeuer was done within a mile therof, whether it were the actions of men, of beasts, or any thing else the owner wold desire to know, and whosoever but gaz'd therein, if he had any malady whatsoever, it was presently cured. So great were the vertues of this rare Glasse, that wonder not if I shed teares to thinke of the losse: for the wood in which this Glasse stode, was light and fast, and is called Catine, it will last euer: for womes, dust, wet nor time can consume it, and therefore King Salomon seled his Temple with the same: the value exceeded farre the value of gold, it is like to the wood Hebenus, of which King Crampart

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Crampart made a Horse, for the loue of the most beautifull daughter of King Morcadiges. This Horse was made with such Art within, that whosoever rode on it, if he pleased hee would runne aboute an hundred miles in lesse then an houre, which wa: approued by Clamades the Kings sonne, who not believing in the Engine, and being young and lusty, leapt vpon the

of Reynard the Fox.

the Horse, and presently Crampart turning a pinne that stood in the back of the Engine, moued, and went out of the Palace through the windowes, and in the first minute hee was gone at last ten mile, Clamades was much affrighted at the wonder, and imagined (as the story said) that hee should neuer haue returned backe againe: but of his long iourney, much feare, great trouble, and infinite ioy, when hee had learned to manage and gouerne the woaden beast. I leaue to speake for tediousnesse sake, onely the high vertue of all issued from the woad.

Of this woad the Glasse case was made, being larger then the Glasse by halfe a fote and moze square, vpon which verge was decypted diuers many strange Histories, in Gold, in Silver, in Sables, Pelloin, Azure and Cynope: and these colours were very curiously wrought and interlayd together, and vnder each History the words so engraueu and enameled, that any man might read the whole story: belæue it, the world neuer produc'd a thing of greater worth, luster or pleasure. In the vpper part thereof stood a Horse in his naturall glory, fat, faire, and fiery, which byaued a stately Hart which ranne before him: but seeing he could not ouertake the Hart in swiftnesse, at which hee infinitely disdained, hee went to a Heardsman standing by, and told him, if hee would helpe him to take a Hart which hee would shew him, he should haue all the profit of the conquest, as the hornes, skinne, and flesh: When the Heardsman asked him what meanes he should vse to get him: the Horse said, mount vpon my backe, and I will beare thee after him, till with trying wee take him. The Heardsman took his offer, and bestriding the Horse followed the Deare: but hee fled away so fast, and got so much ground of the Horse, that with much labour the Horse grew weary, and hee bade the Heardsman alight, for hee would rest himselfe a while: But the Heardsman said, I haue a bridle on thy head, and spures on my heeles, therefore know thou art now my servant: neither will I part with thee, but gouerne thee as seemes best to my pleasure. Thus the Horse brought him'selfe into thyalbome, and was taken in his owne net, for no creature

The pleasant History



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The pleasant History

hath a greater aduersary then his owne enuy, and many which labour the hurt of others, still fall vpon their owne ruines.

In another part was figured an Asse, and an Hound, which were both the seruants of a rich man: This man loued his Hound exceedingly, and would oft play with him, and suffer the dogge to saune and leape vpon him, and now and then to licke him about the mouth. Now when Bauldwin the Asse saw this, he began to enuie the Hound, and said, What sees my Master in this foule Hound, that he suffers him thus to leape vpon him and kisse him? I see no profitable seruice hee doth him. I labour, beare and draw, and doe more seruice in one weeke then the dogge and his whole kinde are able to doe in a yeare, and yet haue I not the tythe of his fauours: so he sitteth by his trencher, eates the fat of his meate, and lyes on Carpets and Pillowes: when I that doe all, am sed onely with Pettles and Whistles: well, I will no longer endure it but I will study to haue my Lords fauour as much as the Hound, if not in greater measure. Anone the Master of the house came home, and the Asse lifting vp his tayle, leapt with his fore-facte on his Shoulders, and brayed and grinned, and put forth his mouth to kisse him, and vsed such rude vnmannerly action, that he rubb all the skinne from his Masters eare, and almost ouerthrew him: so that the man was forced to cry out helpe, helpe, so: this Asse will kill me. Then came in his seruants with stanes, and beat the Asse so exceedingly, that hee was almost slaine: which done, he returned to his stall againe, and was an Asse as he was before. In the same manner, they which doe enuie and spite at others welfare, if they receive the same rewarde, it is nothing more then is due to their merit: so: an Asse is an Asse and was bozne to eate Whistles: and where Asses gouerne, there, order is neuer obserued, so: they haue no eye either on this side, or beyond their owne private profit: yet sometimes they are aduanced, the more is the pittie.

In another part was figured the Story, how my father and Tybert the Cat traualled together, & had swoyne by their troath,

of Reynard the Fox.

troath, that neither for loue nor hate they would depart one from the other: but it hapned on a time they saw Hunters coming ouer the fields with a kennell of Hounds, from which they fled apace, for their liues were in danger. Then said the fore, Tybert, whither shall we flye: for the Hunters haue espied vs: for mine owne part I haue a thou and wiles to escape them, and as long as we abide together we shall not neede to feare them. But the Cat began to sigh, and was exceedingly afraid, and said, Reynard, what needes many words: I haue but one wile, and that must helpe me, and forthwith he clamberd vp to the top of an high Tree, where he lurkt amongst the leaues, that neither Huntsman nor Hound could hurt him, and left my father to abide the whole hazard, for the whole kennell pursued him, haynes and hallowes echoing after him: Kill the fore, kill the fore.

This when Tybert saw, he mocked my father, and said: Now cousin Reynard, it is time to let loose all your wiles, for if your wit faile you, I feare your whole body will perish. This my father hearing from him he most trusted, and being then in the height of pursuit wearied, and almost spent, he let his male slip from his shoulders, to make himselfe so much lighter, yet all auailed not, for the Hounds were so swift they had caught him, had he not by chance e pied a hole, into which he entred, and escaped the Hounds and Hunt men. Thus you may see the false faith of the Cat, whose like there be many liuing at this time, and though this might well excuse me from louing the Cat, yet my soules health and charity binde me to the contrary, and I wish him no hurt, though his misfortunes shall neuer be grieuous to me: not so much for hatred as the remembrance of his iniuries which often contends against my reason.

Also in that Bocco stands another History of the Wolfe, how on a time he found vpon a Heath a dead Horse, whose flesh being eaten away, he was faine to gnaw and deuore the bones, which he did with such greedines, that swallowing them too hastily downe, one fell so crosse his throat, that he was almost choak'd, and hardly escaped with life: whereup a

The pleasant History

he sought euery place for the cunningest Surgeons, promising them great gifts to ease his torment : but hauing lost much labour in the end he met with the Crane, and besought him with his long necke and bill to helpe him, and he would highly reward him. The Crane greedy of gaine, put in his head into the Wolfes throat, and brought out the bone. The Wolfe started at the pull, and cryed aloud, Thou hurtst me but I doe forgive thee, yet doe it not againe I charge thee, for at anothers hands I would not beare it : Then the Crane said : Sir Negrim, goe and bee frolike, for you are whole, I looke for no more but the reward you promised mee : Now (said the Wolfe) what impudence is this ? I suffer and haue cause to complaine, yet hee will be rewarded, hee will not so much as thanke me for his life, but forgets that his head was in my mouth, and how I suffered him to draw it out againe without hurting, albe hee put mee to exceeding much paine : I suppose it is I which deserue the reward, and not the Crane.

Thus you may see the fashion of ingratefull men in these dayes, how euer they reward good with euill : for where as pride is exalted, there honour is euer laid in the dust. There be a world which ought to reward, and doe good to those that haue aduanc'd them, which now complaine, and make those aduancements iniuries, but the guerdon will follow : for it is the wisest counsaile, that whoeuer will goe about to chaunce another, should euer be sure of his owne clearenesse. All this and a world more then I can well remember was curiously wrought on this Glasse : for the worke-master thereof was the cunningest and profoundest Clarke in all Sciences that euer breathed. And because the Jewels were too good and precious for mee to keepe : therefore I sent them to the King and Quenes Maiesty as a present to witnesse my faith and seruice : & hee that had seene what sorrow my children made when I sent the Glasse away, would haue wondered, for by reason of the great vertue therein, they oft gazed in the same, both to behold themselves, and to see how their cloathing and apparell became them.

of Reynard the Fox.

Little did I then imagine that good Kyward was so nere his death, for then but himselfe, and Bellin the Ram, I knew no messengers worthy to carry so rich a present. But I will search the whole world, but I will finde the murtherer, for murther cannot be hid. It may be he is in this presence which knowes what is become of Kyward. albe it doe conceale it; for many Devils walke like Saints. Yet the greatest wonder of all is (which troubled mee most,) that my Lord the King should say, that my Father nor my selfe euer did good. But the troubles of affaires may well breede forgetfulness in Kings, otherwise your Maiesty might call to minde how when the King your Father liued, and you were a Prince not aboue two yeres old: My Father came from the Schole at Mountpelior, where he had studied fve yeres the Art of Physick, and was expert in all the principles thereof, and so famous in those dayes, that he wore cloathes of Silke and a Golden Cirdle. Now when he was come to the Court, he found the King in great extremity of sickness, (which was no little griefe unto him, for he loued the King most dearly) and the King reioyced at his sight, and would not suffer him to be out of his presence. All others might walke whither they would, onely he must euer be nere him. Then said your Father, Reynard I am exceeding sicke, and I feele my sicknesses increasing. My Father answered; my Lord, here is an Urinall, make water therein, and asone as I behold your state, I will giue mine opinion. The King did as he was admitted (for he trusted not any equall with him.) Then said my Father: My best Lord, if you will be eased of your griefe, you must needs eate the Lynoz of a Wolfe of seuen yeres old, or else your disease is incurable.

The Wolfe at that time stode by your Father, but said nothing: wherupon the King said, Sir Negrim, you heare how there is nothing which can cure mee but your Lynoz. The Wolfe replied: Not so my Lord, for I am not yet full fve yeres old. It is no matter (answered my Father) let him be opened, and when I see the Lynoz, I will tell you if it be medicinable: Then was the Wolfe carryed to the Kit-

The pleasant History

chin, and his Lruoz taken out, which the King eate, and was presently cured of his sicknesse. Then the King thanked my Father, and commanded all his Subiects on paine of death, from thence forth to call him Master Reynard. So he abode still about the King, walked by his side, and was trusted in all things, and the King gaue him (for an honour) a Garland of Roses which he must euer weare upon his head. But these remembrances are all lost and gone, and his enemies are now onely aduanced, vertue is put backe, and Innocence liues in sorrow: for when basenes and couetousnes are made Commanders, they neither know themselves, nor looke at the lowes from whence they are risen: They haue no hearts for pity, nor eares for the poore mans cause. Gold is the goale they runne to, and gifts the God which they worship. What great mans Fate, doth not now locke by Couetousnes? where is not flattery entertayn'd, and what Prince takes hate at his owne praises? But should greatnes need their honest seruice, well might they starue ere they could gaine that imployment: for like Wolves they had rather see their Masters dye, then lend them the least part of their Lruoz.

This my Lord was an accident which fell in your youth, and you may well forget it: Yet (without boasting) I my selfe may say, I haue done to you both honour and seruice, and you haply also forget this which I shall repeat, which I vowe I doe not to bybraid your Haiesly, for you are euer worthy of more then I can tender, and my uttermost is but the rent of a loyall Subiect, which I am euer bound by the lawes of God and Nature to performe.

So it was, that on a time Hegrim the Wolfe and I had gotten a Swine vnder vs, and by reason of his excreame loude crying, we were compelled to bite him to death. At which time your selfe came out of a Creue by to vs, and saluted vs friendly, saying: That you and the Queene your wife which came after you, were both exceeding hungry, and intreated vs to giue you part of our gettings: Hegrim then whispered in such manner, that none could vnderstand him, but I spake out aloud: With all my heart my Lord, and were it better then
it

of Reynard the Fox.

It is if were too meane for your seruice. But Hegrim according to his went departed grumbling, and tooke halfe of the Swine giuing you and the Queene but one poore quarter, the other he himselfe vnmanly deuoured, and left me for my share but poore halfe of the Lungs. When your Haiesly had eaten your part, you were still hungry, but the Wolfe would deliuer none: so that you reacht him a blowe with your scote, which tore all the skin from about his eares, so that he ranne away crying and howling with all extremity. But your Haiesly commanded him to returne againe speedily and bring you more meate, but he went away grumbling. Then I besought your Haiesly, that I might goe with him: and I well remember your answer. So away we went together, his eares dropping blood all the way as he went: In the end we tooke a Calfe, and when your Haiesly saw vs bring it, you laughed and said to me I was a swift Huntsman, and could finde demy game quickly, and therefore I was fit to serue in time of necessity: Then you bade me to deuide it, and I did it, and gaue one halfe thereof to your Haiesly, the other halfe to the Queene: As for the Huggets, Lyuo, Lungs and all the inwards, I sent them to the young Princes your Children: As for the head I gaue it to Hegrim the Wolfe, and tooke vn to my selfe but the sate onely. Then said your Haiesly, ha Reynard, who taught you to make these courteous diuisions? My Lord (answered I) that did this Priest which sits haere with the bloody pate: for he lost his skinn for his too much inequality, and for his couetousnesse hath reapt nothing but shame and dishonour. But it matters not, for there be many Wolves in these dayes, that would euen eat vp their best friends and kindred: Nay if they had power euen your Haiesly also, for they make no respect either of friend or enemy. But woe to that Common wealth where such haue the upper hand and gouernment.

My gracious Lord, this and many such like actions as this haue I done for you Haiesly, which were it not for tediousnes sake I could well repeate. But they are all now cast out of your remembrance, but time and my loyalty I hope will

our

The pleasant History

one day againe recall them. I haue scene the day when no matter was finished in the Court without my aduice and censure, though now that Iudgement is not so reputed: yet it may be, the same reputation may spring vp againe, and be beloued as firmly as befoze, as long as it thwarne not from Justice which is the onely thing I ayme at. For if any one can charge mee otherwise and proue it by witnes, here I stand to indure the vttermost the Law can inflict vpon mee: But if malice enely slaunder mee without witnes, I craue the combat according to the Law and instance of the Court. Then said the King Reynard you say well, nor know I any thing moze of Kywards death then the bringing of his head vnto mee by Bellin the Kiamme: therefore of it I haere acquit you. My deare Lord (said the fore) I humbly thanke you: yet is his death so grieuous vnto mee I cannot let it passe so easily: I remember my heart was heauy at their departure, and I was ready to sinke to the ground, which was a certaine presage of the losse which hapned.

These words and the sad lookes of the fore, so amazed all the beholders, that they could not chuse but beleue all that hee vttered, so that euery one bemoan'd his losse, and pittied his sorrow. But the King and Quene were most touched with the same, and then intreated him that hee would make diligent search for the finding of them out, for his prayes had stricken them farre in loue with the Jewels: And because hee told them, hee had sent those Jewels anto them (though they neuer saw them) yet they gaue him as great thanks, as if they had bin in their safe possession, and desired him hee would be a meanes they might be restored to them againe.

of Reynard the Fox.

CHAP. 22.

How Reynard made his peace with the King, and how Isengrim
the Wolfe complained of him againe.

The fore understood their meanings exceeding well, and
though hee little meant to performe what they intreated,



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yet he thanked the King and Quene for the comforts they gaue him in his great extremity, vowing not to rest neither night nor day, but to search all the corners of the earth till he had found what was become of those Jewels: Also intreating his Maiesty that if they should be concealed in such places, where he might be withstood by force, so as neither his prayers nor power might attaine vnto them, that then his Highnesse would assist him: Both because it was an occasion which concern'd him so nercely, as al'so a thing requiered from his Office, being an act of perfect Justice, to punish Theft, and Further, both which were contained in this action.

Then the King assured him, that so soone as it should be knowne where they were, no helpe or assistance should be wanting. The fore gaue the King humble thanks, for now he had gotten all his purposes to the wished end he expected, and by his falles tale a flattery had so fastened the King vnto him, that now he might goe freely whither he pleased, and none should dare to complaine vpon him: Onely Isegrim the Trolle stood all this while infinitely displeased, and not able to containe his anger any longer, he said: O my Lord the King, is it possible your Maiesty should be so much childish or weake of belasse, as to fire your trust vpon the falshood of this euill-deceiuing marchant, which hath nothing but shadowes and chymeraes wherewith to inchant you: Be not so easily seduced, he is a wretch all couered and besmeared with murder and treason, and euen to your owne face hath made a scosse of your Maiesty. For my owne part I am glad he is here in your presence, and I intend to ring him such a peale of contrary nature, that all the lyes he can inuent shall not beare him away with safety.

So it is (my dread Lord) that this dissembling and false Traytor not long since did betray my wife most shamefully: For it hapned vpon a Winters day that they two traualled together through a very great water, and he perswaded my wife that he would teach her a singular Art how to catch fish with her tayle, by letting it hang angle-wise in the water a

good

of Reynard the Fox.

good while, whereunto he said there would so much fish instantly cleave, that halfe a dozen of them should not be able to



denure it. The silly fowle my wife (supposing all to be truth which came from him) went presently into the myze vp to the belly before she came to the water, and coming into the
depth

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depth of the water (as he directed her) he held her taile doorne
still in the water, expecting when there the fish should cleave
to: But (the weather being sharpe and frosty) shee stode
there so long, that her taile was frozen hard to the Ice, so that
all the force shee had was not able to pull it out, But when
this lustfull villaine beheld that, he presently leapt vpon her
and rauished her, in such beastly and gamefull manner, that
no modest eare is able to heare the odiousnesse of the action,
My poore wife being dismayed of all resistance, well might she
crie, cry, and lye vpon the bryne of her stonie teares, but
all to no purpose, the deede was done, and the villaine triumphed.
This no in-pudence can make him deny, for I came
and toke him in the action. Oh how much Iealousie, griefe,
and fury, assaile me at that instant, I was euen distract to
behold them: And cried Reynard, villaine what art thou doing:
But he seeing me so neare approaching, presently leapt
from her and ranne his way. So I went vnto her with much
sorrow and heauines, hauing a world of labour etc I could
breake the Ice about her: and in despite of all my cunning, yet
she was compeld to leaue a peece of her taile behinde her: and
inorde we both escaped hardly with our liues. For by reason
of the great anguish she endured, she barked so lowde, that the
people of the next Village rose vp and came with Stauies and
Bils, with flayles and Pitchforkes, and the Villies with
their Distauies, and so fiercely assaulted vs: Crying, kill, kill,
and Slay, slay that I was neuer in so desperate a taking. One
snaue amongst the rest, which was strong and swift of foote,
hurt vs sore with a Pike staffe: And had not the night be-
friended vs, we had neuer escaped that danger. From hence
we came into a field full of Byzomes and Brambles, where
we hid vs from the fury of our enemies: Thus my gracious
Lord, you haue heard how this Traytor and murthrer hath
vs'd vs, and against the same we craue the right of your Law
and Iustice.

But Reynard answered and said, If this were true, I con-
fesse it would touch me nere in honour and reputation: but
God forbid that euer such a slander should be proued against
me:

of Reynard the Fox.

me: I confesse I haught her to catche fish, and first by her selfe to enter the water and neuer touch the shore: but her greedynesse so transported her when she heard me name the fish, that she ranne without respect of any path or direction, and so running into the Ice, she was there presently frozen by reason of her too long tarrying, for she had more fish then would haue satisfied twenty reasonable appetites: But it is commonly seene that who all would haue, all forgoe, for couetousnesse seldome bringeth any thing well home: yet when I saw her so fastened in the Ice, I vsed all my best endeouors to loose her, and so indeede was heauing and shouing about her, but to little purpose, for by reason of her waight I was not able to moue her.

Now whilst this was in doing, came Isgrim, and seeing me so busie about her, Churle-like he most vildly flaundered me, like a profuse tattall which takes delight to be accounted a Cuckold: but beleeue it my gracious Lord, all was false, and his wife vertuous for any thing within my knowledge: whence I am perswaded that surely his eye dazzled, for indeede he vttered many a grieuous curse, and threatned much reuengement against me, so that more to eschew his blasphemy then fury, I went my way, and he came and with as great adoe and as much heane and shoue he helpt her out: which done, they (then almost starued with cold) ranne and scot vp and downe the fields to get them heate: and that this is all truth which I haue spoken, I will willingly be deposed, for I would not be the father of any falshood before your Highnesse, to be Master of many millions: howeuer my fortunes goe I respect not, truth is my badge, and hath euer bene the Ensigne of all mine Ancestors: and if there be any scruple or doubt made of mine assertion, I aske but eight dayes liberty, that I may conferre with my learned Counsaile, and I will so approue all my words by the oath and testimony of good and sufficient witnessse, that your Highnesse and your honourable Counsaile shall accord to the iudgement of my protestation. As for the Wolfe, what haue I to doe with him, it is well known already that he is a debaucht and abominable

The Moral.

By the complaint of the Wolfe, is shewed, the enuie that one ill man beares another, and how both they are, that are of their contrarie faction should escape punishment, and that to gain reuengement they care not what indignitie they do to themselves, as doth appeare by the Wolfe flaundering of his owne wife. By the rising of the Towne vp against the Wolfe and his wife, is shewed, that one mischiefe felow doth cometh to all folkes, but noo her selfe will see it at the heeles. By the Foxes excuse is shewed, how.

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ious villaine, false both to heaven and to your Majesty, and
now his owne words witnesse him a base slaunderer of wo-
men: therefore I referre my selfe to the triall of his wife: if she
accuse me, let the world hold me guilty, provided she may be
made free from her husband, whose tyrannie will compell her
to say any thing, though neuer so vniuersally.

At this, forth stept dame Arsewind the Wolfes wife, and
said: O Reynard thou hast so oylie a smooth tongue, and so
dipt in flattery, that no man is safe from thine enchantment:
it is not once but oft thou hast decei'd mee, remember but
how thou didst vse me at the Well with two Buckets, which
hanging at one cord, and running through one pulley, which
euer as one went downe, the other went vp. I remember
how thou getting into one of them, fell downe to the bottome
of the Well, and there satest in great danger and perill, so that
I ran thither with great haste, and heard thee sigh and make
great moane, then asking thee how thou camst there, and thou
answerdest mee that thou wert there a fishing, and hadst se



much

of Reynard the Fox.

much fish, of which thou hadst eaten so many, that thy belly which means he may lose
was ready to breake with swelling: then I asked how I might come to thee, and thou saidst: Aunt leape into that Bucket which hangeth there, and you will be presently with me: which I no sooner said, but (being much heavier then thy selfe) I fell presently to the bottome of the Well, and then came up to the top: at which when I seem'd to be angry, thou saidst: Aunt, this is but the fashion of the world, ever as one comes up, another must goe downe, and so said, you leapt out of the Bucket and ranne your way, leaving mee here all alone, where I remained a whole day, pyned with hunger and starved with cold: and ere I could get out from thence, received so many blowes, that my life was never in greater danger. The Fox replied: Aunt though the strokes were painefull unto you, yet I had rather you should have them then my selfe, for you are stronger and better able to beare them, and at that time of necessity one of vs could not escape them: besides Aunt, I taught you wisdom and experience, that you should not trust either friend or foe, when the matter he perswades to, is the auoyding of his owne prail: for nature teacheth vs to love our owne welfare, and he which doth otherwise, is crown'd with nothing but the title of folly.

Then said dame Arsewind to the King: I beseech your Maiesty marke how this dissembler can blow with all windes, and paint his mischiefes with false colours: a world of times hath he brought me into these hazards. Once he betray'd me to my Aunt the shee Ape, where ere I escaped I was faine to leave one of mine eares behind mee: If the Fox dare tell the truth of the story (for I know his memory to be much better: besides, he is apt to catch aduantage from the weaknesse of my language) I desire no better evidence against him. Then said the Fox willingly I will doe it, and without flattery or falsehood, and therefore I beseech your Maiesty lend me your royall patience.

Upon a certaine time the Wolfe here came to me into the Wood, and complained unto me that he was exceeding hungry,

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grey, (yet neuer saw him fuller in my life) but he would euer
assemble : at which presently I tooke pittie of him , and said,
I was also as hungry as he : so away we went and trauailed
halfe a day together without finding any thing, then began he
to toline and cry, and said, he was not able to goe no further.
Then hard by the foote of a Hathorne Tree, we espied a hole
all couered ouer with Brambles, and heard a great rushing
therein, but could not imagine the cause why : then I desired
the Wolfe to goe in and looke if any thing were there to profite
vs (for something I knew there was) then said he, Cousin I
would not creepe into the hole for an hundred pounds, till I
knew certainly what was therein, for there may be danger:
but if you please to attempt it, who I know hath both Art and
wit to saue your selfe, I will stay here under this Tree till
your returne : but I beseech you make haste and let me know
what is therein as soon as you perceiue it.

Behold my dread Lord the King, thus he made me more
fully brast to goe before into the hazard, and he who is great,
strong and mighty, did abide without in peace, wherein I ex-
prest no little friendship, for I would not endure the like dan-
ger for a Kingdome : but to procede, I entred into the hole,
and found the way darke, long and tedious : in the end I espe-
ed a great light, which came in on the further side of the hole,
by which I saw there lying a great ther Ape, with eyes glim-
mering and sparkling with fire, her mouth set round with
long sharpe teeth, and on her hands and feete nayles sharpe as
Cliffo: Rodkin. I imagined her at first a Charmozine or Wa-
bome, or else a Perrat, for a more dreadfull beast I neuer be-
held in all my life-time, and by her side lay diuers of her chil-
dren, which like her selfe were sterne and cruell of counte-
nance : when they saw me come towards them, they gaped
wide with their mouthes vpon me, so that I grew amazed,
and wish'd my selfe sarre from the harbor. But resolving
with my selfe that now I was in, I must quit my selfe as
well as I could, I looked more constantly vpon her, and me
thought she appeared bigger then Hecrim the Wolfe, and the
least of her brattes much larger then my selfe (for a fouler
company

of Reynard the Fox.

company I neuer saw) they were all laid in soule Litter, rotten and durty with their owne pisse, they were all dawb'd and clogged with their owne dung, which stunk so filthily, that I was almost poysoned with the smell. For my owne part I durst not but speake them faire, and therefore I said: Aunt God giue you many good dayes, and blesse you and my Cousins your prety Children: questionles they are the fairest of their ages that euer I beheld, and so surpass in beauty and perfection, that they may well be accounted of most Princely issue. Truly Aunt we are infinitely beholden to you that doth adde this encrease and glory to our family: for my owne part (deare Aunt) when I heard you were laid downe and deliuered, I could not stay but must needs come to visit you: Then replied she, cousin Reynard you are exceeding welcome: you haue found me like a Slut, but I thanke you for your kinde visitation: you are a worthy Gentleman, and (through all the Kings dominions) for your wit and Iudgement held of singular reputation, you doe much honour to your kindred, and are famous for the meanes you worke to their preferments: I must intreate you to take the charge of my Children, and instruct them in the rules of knowledge and Science, that they may know hereafter how to liue in the world. I haue thought of you euer since they were borne, and resolved vpon this course because I knew your perfection, and that you accompanied your selfe with none but the good and vertuous.

How glad was I when I heard those words to proceed from her, which kindnes was onely, because at first I called her Aunt, who indeed was no soule kin vnto me: for my true Aunt indeed is onely dame Rakenaw which standeth yonder: who indeed is the Mother of excellent Children. Yet notwithstanding I answered this soule monster: Aunt my life and goods are both at your seruice, and what I can doe for you night or day, shall euer be at your commandement and your Children. Yet I most heartily wisht my selfe farre from them at that instant, for I was almost poysoned with their stinke. And I pittied Isgrim who was sore griued with hunger

The pleasant History

hunger all this while : and offering to take my leave, and saying that my wife would thinke long til my returne. She said deare Cousin, you shall not depart till you haue eaten something, I shall take it unkindly if you offer it : Then rose she vp and carryed me into an inner Roome, where was great store of all kinde of Venison, both red Deare, fallow Deare, and Roe : also great store of Partridge, Pheasant, and other fowles, that I amazed much from whence such store of meate should come. Now when I had eaten sufficiently, she gaue me a side and halfe a haunch of a Wynde, to carry home to my wife, which I was ashamed to take but that she compeld me : And so taking my leave, and being intreated often to visit her, I did depart thence, much ioyed that I had sped so well.

Now being come out of the Causay, I spied where as Negrim lay groaning pittifully, and I asked him how he fared : He said : wondrous ill, and so extreamely ill, that (deare Nephew) without some meate I dye presently : Then did I take compassion of him, and gaue him my wifes token which procured his life, and for which then he gaue me a world of thanks, though now he hate me extreamely. But as soone as he had deuoured vp Venison, he said : Reynard : my deare Cousin, what found you in the hole : beleeue it I am now more hungry then I was before, and this small morsell hath but sharpened my teeth to eate more. Then said I to him Tinkie get you into that hole and you shall finde store of viuals, for there yeth my Aunt with her Children : If you can flatter and speake her faire, you neede feare no hard measure, all things will be as you would wish it.

I thinke (my gracious Lord) this was warning sufficient, and that which might haue armed any wise spirit : But rude and barbarous beasts will neuer vnderstand wisdome. And therefore they loath the policies they know not. But yet he promised to follow my counsaile : So forth he went into that foule stinking hole, and found the Ape in that filthy sort as before I described : which when he saw (being affrighted) he cried out, Woe and alas, I thinke I am comed into Hell: did
enter

of Reynard the Fox.

ever creature for such fearefull goblins : Drowne them, for
thame Drowne them, they are so vgly, they are able to carrie the
Devill: why they make my haire stand on end with their hor-
rid deformity. Then (said she) Sir Hegrim their creation is
not my fault, let it suffice they are my Childzen, and I am
their Mother. For ought their beauty or hard favour to dis-
please you : Here was a kin man of theirs to day, and is but
newly departed, who is well kincline to excuse you, both in
birth vertue, and wisdom, and he accounted them faire and
lovely, for your opinion I care not : Therefore you may de-
part at your pleasure. Then he replyd (Dame) I would have
you know, that I would eate of your meate, it is much better
bestowed on me then on these vgly Glachins. But she tolde
him she had no meate: Yes (said he) here is meate enough, and
with that offering to reach at the meate, my Aunt start vp
with her Childzen, and ran at him with their sharpe nayles,
and so claued him, that the blood ranne about his eares, and I
heard him cry and houle so extremely, that it appeared he
had no defence, but to runne out of the hole as fast as he could.
For indeede he came out both extremely beaten and extremely
bitten, and all his skin flacht like a Spanish Jerkin: and
one eare left behinde for a pawne of his ill manners.

This when I saw, I asked him if he had flattered suffici-
ently : and he said he had spoke as he found, for the Damme
was a foule Bitch, and the Litter most vgly monsters. Then
I tolde him, how he should have commended their beauties,
and taken them for his best of allvance. And he replied he had
rather haue sene them all hang'd. Then (quoth I) you must
allwayes receiue such reward as now you doe, but wisdom
would bee otherwile, a lye is sometimes a much available, as
a true tale : and faire words neuer come out of scallion, and bet-
ter then we, hold it for a rule worthy imitation.

Thus my Lord, I haue tolde you truly how he came by
his red night cap, which I know he cannot, nor dare not deny,
for all is true without any addition.

The pleasant History

CHAP. 23,

How *Isegrim* proffered his Gloue to *Reynard* to fight with him, which *Reynard* accepted, and how *Rukemaw* aduised the Foxe how to carry himselfe in the Fight.

The Wolfe answered the Foxe: I may well forbear (saie villaine as thou art) thy mockes and roynes, but thine iniuries I will not. You say I was almost dead for hunger, when you helpt me in my nede: but thou lyest falsly therein, for it was nothing but a hare bone thou gauest me, when thou hadst gnawde all the meate thereof: and therefore know in this thou inimest my reputation: againe thou accu'st mee of treaſon againſt the King, and to conſpire his Maieſties death, for certaine treaſure which thou ſayſt is in Huſterloe: alie thou haſt abuſed and ſlaundered my wiſe, which will euer be an infamy to her name, if it be not reuenged: theſe things conſidered, I haue forborne you long, therefore now I like not to eſcape, wherefore ſeing there is no other testimony but our owne conſciences: here beſore you my Lord the King, and the reſt of my Noble Lords, friends & alvances: here I affirme and will approue to the laſt drop of my blood, that thou *Reynard* the Foxe art a ſalſe Traytor and a Murthrer, and this will I approue and make good vpon thy body with in the Lyſts of the field, body, againſt body, by which meanes our ſtriſe ſhall haue an end, and in witneſſe thereof I caſt thee here my Gloue, which I dare thee to take vp, that I may haue right for mine injury: or elſe dye like a Keturant.

Reynard was ſomething perplext when he ſaw this, for he knew himſelfe much too weak for the Wolfe, and feared to come by the worſt: but ſtraight remembryng the aduantage he had by reaſon the Wolfes foreclawes were pull'd away, and that they were not yet fully cured, he ſaid, Whatſoeuer he be that ſaith I am a traytor or a murtherer, I ſay he lyeth in his throat, eſpecially *Iſegrim* aboue all other: ſo prouo ſoule, thou bringeſt me to the place I deſire, and to the purpoſe I wiſht for, in ſigne whereof I take vp thy gage, and thou ſhouldſt mine, to approue all thy wordes lyes and falſhoods.

This

of Reynard the Fox.



This said, the King receiued their pledges, and admitted
the battaile, commanding them to put in their sureties, that
the next morrow they should try the combat: then kept forth
the Beare and the Cat, and were sureties for the Wolfe: and
for the Fox were sureties Grimbard the Hodge and Bycelus:

The pleasant History



The Moral.

By the Wols
challenging
the combat
of the Fox i
shewed, the
madnesse of
rage & fury,
and how neg
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mischiefes to
theaduersary
The Foxes
accepting of
it, shewes that
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hath no other

Whenall ceremonies were finished, the the Ape tooke Reynard
aside, and said, Nephew, I be'ech you take care of your
selfe in this battaile, be bolde and wise, your Cuckle taught
me once a prayer of singular vertue for him which was to
fight: and he learned it of that excellent Schollar and Clarke
the Abbot of Budelo, and he that saith this prayer with good
denotion fasting, shall neuer be overcome in combat, and
therefore my best Nephew be not afraid, for to morrow I will
reade it ouer you, and the Wolfe shall neuer preuaile against
you. The Ape gaue her many thanks for her fauours, and
solde her: his quartrell was good and honest, and therefore he
had no doubt of happy successe: so all that night he rested with
his kinsfolkes about him, who drane away the time with
pleasant discourse. But dame Rukemay his Aunt will beate
her baine how to worke him advantage in the combat, to her
fore she caused all his haire to be shaven off euen from his head
to fable, and then he anointed all his body quite ouer with
Oyle Olinc, so that she made it so smooth and slippery, that the
Wolfe

of Reynard the Fox

Wolfe could catch no hold of him : besides he was round, fat
 and plump of body, which was a great advantage to him ;
 then she comforted him by saying that he might be more apt to pull in the morning, but in no wise
 to shed any till he came unto the hole: then (said he) when you
 are in the fight, and see time sitting, pisse upon your bushy tale,
 and strike it in the Wolfes face, and as nere as you can into
 his eyes by which meanes blinding his sight, he shall be little
 able to offend you : and but at these speciall times keape your
 tayle as close as can be betweene your legges, lest hee catch
 hold thereon, and pull you to the ground : also looke carefully
 to your selfe at the first, and by all meanes shunne his blowes,
 making him to toyle and runne after you, especially there
 where most dust is, and springing it vp with your feete, make it
 flye in his eyes, take your advantage, and smite and bite him,
 where you may doe him most mischief, euer and euer stri-
 king him on the face with your tayle full of pisse, and that will
 take from him both sight and understanding: besides, it will
 so tyre and weary him, that his feete not being fully cured of
 their hurt by the losse of his shewes (which you caused to be
 pulled off) he will not be able to pursue you : for though he be
 great, yet is his heart little and weak. This (Nephew) is
 mine aduice, and assure your selfe in these cases Art prouai-
 leth as much as courage : therefore regard your selfe well,
 that not onely your selfe but your whole family may gaine ho-
 nour and reputation from your fortune : as for the charme of
 prayer which your Cynckle Martyn taught me (by which you
 may be inuisible, it is this which followeth : then laying her
 hand upon his head she said: Blaerd, Shay, Alphenio, Rasbue,
 Gorfons, Alsuifrig. Now Nephew, assure your selfe you
 are free from all mischief or danger whatsoeuer, therefore
 goe to your rest, for it is nere day, and some shape will make
 the body better disposed.

She for gaue her infinite thanks, and told her she had
 bound him (to her) a seruant for euer : and in those holy words
 she had spoken he had plac'd his confidence vncumouable, and
 so he laid him downe to rest vnder a Tree in the grasse, till it

was

The pleasant History

was some rise : at what time the Otter came unto him and awaked him, and gaue him a fat young Ducke to eat, saying: Deare cousin, I haue toyled all this night to get this pre'en for you, which I take from a Fowler, here take and eat it and you shall gine vigour and cour age. The ffor gaue him many thanks, and said, It was fortunate hauell, and if he



of Reynard the Fox.

furined that day, he should finde he would requite it: so the
fore ate the Ducke without bread or sauce more then his
hunger, and to it he drank foure great draughts of water, and
then he went to the place appointed where the Lyfts stode,
with all his kindred attending on him.

When the king beheld Reynard thus shorne and oyled, he



The pleasant History

said to him : Well fore I see you are carefull of your owne safety : you respect not beauty so you escape danger. The fore answered not a word, but bowing himselfe downe humbly to the earth both before the King and Duannes Maistries, went forth into the field : And at the same time the Wolfe was also ready and stood boasting, and giuing out many proude and vaine glorious speeches. The Marshalls and rulers of the Lynxes, were the Lybard and the Losse. The fore brought forth a Booke on which the Wolfe swoze and maintained his assertion, That the fore was a Traytor, and a furtherer, which he would proue on his body or else be counted a Kereant. Then Keynard tooke the Booke and sware he lyed as a false Traytor and a Thiefe, which he would proue on his body or be accounted a Kereant.

When these ceremonies were done, the Marshalls of the field bad them doe their deuoyre. And then euery creature auoyded the Lists, saue dame Rukenaw who stood by the fore and bad him remember the words and instructions she had giuen him, and call to minde how when he was scarce seauen yeares old, he had then wisdom enough to passe the darkest night without Lanthorne or Candlelight, or the helpe of the Moone when any occasion required him : and that his experience was much greater and his reputation of wisdom more frequent with his companions : and therefore to worke so as he might winne the day, which would be an eternall monument to him and his family for euer. To this the fore answered (my best Aunt :) assure your selfe I will doe my best and not forget a tittle of your counsaile. I doubt not but my friends shall ceape honour, and my foes shame by my actions: To this the Ape said Amen, and so departed.

of Reynard the Fox.

CHAP. 24.

Of the Combat betweene the Foxe and the Wolfe, the
cuent, passages and victoyr.



When none but the Combatants were in the Lystes,
the Wolfe wet towards the fore with infinit rage
and fury, and thinking to take the fore in his forefeet, the
fore leapt nimbly from him and the Wolfe pur'ued him, so
th^t there began a tedious cha'e betwene them, on which all
their friends gazed. The Wolfe taking larger strides then
the fore often overtook him, and lifting up his saete to strike
him, the fore auoyed the blowe, and smote him on the face
with his Tayle, which was all to be pist, so that the Wolfe
was stricken almost blinde the piste smarted so extreamely.
And hee was forced to rest whilst he glayzed his eyes, which
aduantage when Reynard saw, he scraped up the dust with his
saete, and threwe it in the eyes of the Wolfe. This grieved
him worse then the former, so that he durst follow him no lon-
ger, for the dust and sand sticking in his eyes smarted so sore,
that

The pleasant History

that of force he must rub and wash it away. Which Reynard seeing, with all the fury he could he raine upon him, and with his teeth gaue him three sore wounds on his head, and scoffing said: Haue I hit you Mr. Wolfe? I will yet git you better: you haue kild many a Lamb, & many an innocent Beast, and would impose the fault vpon me, but you shall finde the price of your knauey: I am markt to punish they sinnes, and I will giue thee the absolution brauely. It is good thou be patience, for Hell is they Purgatory, & thy life is at my mercie. Yet notwithstanding, if thou wilt kneele downe and aske me forgiveness, and confesse thy selfe vanquished (though thou beest the worst thing liuing) yet I will spare thy life, for my pittie makes me loath to kill thee. These words made Issegim both mad and desperate, so that he knew not how to expresse his fury, his wounds bled, his eyes smarted, and his whole body was oppressed. So that in the height of this fury he lift vp his foot, and strucke the fore so great a blow, that he feld him to the ground. But Reynard being nimble, quickly rose vp againe and encountred the Wolfe, that betwene them began a dreadfull and doubtfull Combat. The Wolfe was exceedingly furious, and ten times he leaped to catch Reynard fast, but his skin was so slippery and oylie, he could not hold him. As so wondrous nimble was he in sight, that when the Wolfe thought to haue him surest, he would thift himselfe betwene his legs and vnder his belly, and euery time gaue the Wolfe a bite with his teeth, or a sway on the face with his taile, that the poore Wolfe found nothing but despaire in the conflict, albeit his strength was much the greater.

Thus many wounds and beatings passing on either side, the one expressing cunning and the other strength, the one surie the other Temperance. In the end the Wolfe being mangled, that the battaile had continued so long, (for had his fate bene sound it had bene much shorter) he said to himselfe, I will make an end of this combat, for I know my vere waight is able to crush him in pieces, and I looe much of my reputation to suffer him thus long to contend against me. And this said, he strucke the fore againe so sore a blowe on the head with

of Reynard the Fox.

with his foote, that he fell doونه to the ground, and ere he
could recover himselfe and arise, he caught him in his paws &
threw him under him, lying upon him in such wise, as if he
would have prest him to death.



Now began the fere to be grievously affraid, and all his
friends also, and all liegians friends began to shoke for fear:

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The Morall. but the Fox defended himselfe (as well as he could) with his clauies, lying along, and the Wolfe could not hurt him with his clauies, his fete were so soze, onely with his tath he snatched at him to bite him, which when the Fox saw, he smote the Wolfe on the head with his fore clauies, so that he toze the skinne betwene his browes, and his eares, and one of his eyes hung out of his head, which put the Wolfe to infinite toymit, and he howled out extramely: then Issegriim wiping his face, the Fox tooke aduantage thereof, and with his strugling got vpon his fete.

By the Wolfs furious assailing the Fox, and the foxes watching and pursuing of aduanrage, is shewed, the folly of rage and passion, & the discretio of temperance and wisdom, the first neuer bringing any thing but losse; the other comonly accompanied with honour & safety: by the pist taylor is exprest the sharpe afflictions with which wisdom euer punishes rashnes, & by the losse of the Wolfes eye, is shewed, that madnes and rage is euer more but blindness.

The Wolfes catching the Fox, & holding him in his power, shews that Fortune sometim a fa-

At which the Wolfe was angry, and striking after him, caught the Fox in his armes, and held him fast: neuer was Reynard in so great a strait as then, for at that time great was their contention, but anger now made the Wolfe forget his smart, and griping the Fox altogether vnder him, as Reynard was defending himselfe, his hand light into Issegriims mouth, so that he was in danger to lose it. Then said the Wolfe to the Fox, now either yeld thy selfe as vanquished, or else certainly I will kill thee, neither thy dust, thy pisse, thy mockes, nor any subtil inuention shall now saue thee, thou art now left utterly desperate, and my wounds must haue their satisfaction. When the Fox heard this, he thought it was a hard election, for both brought his ruine: and so suddainly concludng, he said: Deare Uncle since Fortune commands me, I yeld to be your seruant, and at your commandments will trauaile for you to the Holy land, or any other pilgrimage, or do any seruice which shall be beneficiall to your soule or the soules of your fore-fathers: I will doe for the King or for our holy Father the Pope, I will hold of you my lands and reuenues, and as I, so shall all the rest of my kindred: so that you shall be a Lord of many Lords, and none shall dare to moue against you: besides, whatsoeuer I get of Pullaine, Gae, Partridges, or Plouer, flesh or fish, you, your wife and children shall haue the first choyse ere any come in my belly, I will euer stand by your side, and wheresoeuer you goe no danger shall come naxer you: you are strong, and I am subtil, we two ioynd together, what force can preuaile against vs?

Again,

of Reynard the Fox.

Againe, we are so neere in blood, that Nature forbids there should be any enmity betwene us: I would not haue fought against you had I bene sure of victory, but that you first appealed me, and then you know of necessity I must doe my vtterance: I haue also in this battaile bene courteous to you, and not shewed my worst violence as I would on a stranger, for I know it is the duty of a Nephew to spare his Uncle: and this you might well perceiue by my running from you, I tell you it was an action much contrary to my nature, for I might often haue hurt you when I refused, nor are you worse for me by any thing more then the blemish of your eye, for which I am sorry and wish it had not happened: yet this I know you shall reape rather benefit then losse thereby, for when other Beasts in their flepe shut two windowes, you shall shut but one: as for my wife, children and lineage, they shall fall downe at your feete before you in any presence: therefore I humbly desire you, that you will suffer poore Reynard to liue, I know you may kill me, but what will that auaille you when you shall neuer liue in safety for feare of theruenge-ment of my kindred? Therefore temperance in any mans wrath is excellent, whereas rashnesse is euer the mother of repentance: but Uncle, I know you to be valiant, wise and discrete, and you rather sake honour, peace, and good fame, then blood and reuenge.

Hegrim the Wolfe said, Infinite dissembler, how saine wouldst thou be freed of thy seruitude? too well I vnderstand thee, & know, that if thou wert safe on thy feete, thou wouldst forswear this submission: but know all the wealth in the world shall not buy out thy ranforme, for thee and thy friends I presume them not, nor beleue I any thing thou hast vttered: too well I know thee, and am no bird for thy Lime-bush, chaffe cannot deceine me: How wouldst thou triumph if I should beleue thee and say I wanted wit to vnderstand thee but thou shalt know I can looke both on this side and beyond thee, the many deceites vsed vpon me, hath now armed mee against thee. When say'st thou hast spared me in the battaile: but looke vpon me, and my wounds will shew how falsly thou liest,

you

vours fooles,
but neuer
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grace to en-
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nefit.

The Foxes
flattering of
the Wolfe,
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hath yet still
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its own liber-
ty, and that
false words
doe euer ei-
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Lastly, the
weake Foxes
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Wolfe, is shew-
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rage, nor vio-
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discretion, &
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wary cariage.

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Thou neuer gauest me a time to breath in, nor will I now give thee a minute to repent in, and the rather when I thinke of the dishonour thou did to my bed, and how inhumanely thou dost rauiſh my deare wife dame Arſewinde.

Now whiſt Itegrim was thus talking, the For beſthought himſelfe how he might beſt get free, and thruſting his other hand downe betweene his legges, he caught the Wolfe faſt by the ſtones, and he wrong him ſo extreameſy heard thereby, that he made him ſhrike and howle out with the anguiſh: then the Fore drew his other hand out of his mouth, for the Wolfe was in ſuch wondrous torment, that he had much adoe to containe himſelfe from ſwounding: for this torment exceeded farre the paine of his eye, and in the end he fell ouer and ouer in a ſwound: then preſently Reynard leapt vpon him and drew him about the Lyfts, and dragd him by the legges, and ſtacke, wounded, and bit him in many places, ſo that all the whole field might take note thereof.

At this all Itegrims friends were full of ſorrow, and with great weeping and lamentation went to the King, and prayed him to be pleaſed to appeaſe the combat, and take it into his owne hands: which ſuite the King graunted, and then the Lybard and the Loſon (being Marſhals) entred the Lyfts, and tolde the For and the Wolfe, that the King would ſpeake with them, and that the battaile ſhould there end, for he would take it into his owne hands and determine thereof: as for themſelues they had done ſufficiently, neither would the King loſe either of them: and to the For they ſaid the whole field gaue him the victory.

The For ſaid, I humbly thanke them, and what pleaſeth me Lord the King to command, I am ready to obey, for mine ambition is no further then to be victor, therefore I beſeech you let my friends come to attend mee, that I may proceede by their aduice. They answered it was reaſon: ſo preſently came forth dame Slopecard, and Grimbard her huſband, dame Rukenaw with her two ſiſters, Bitelus and Fulrumpe her two ſonnes, and Malice her daughter, the field Houſe, the Werſell, and aboue an hundred which would not haue comen

of Reynard the Fox.

if the Fox had lost the conquest : so; to him that hath honour, will euer flocke attendants, but to him that is in losse, will nothing but cōtempt follow. Also to the Fox came the Beuer, the Otter, and both their wiues, Pauterrote, and Ordegale, and the Oltrole, the Martin and the Fitchwes, the Ferrit, the Squirrel, and a world moze then I can name, and all because he was the victor: nay, diuers which befoze had complained of him were now of his nextest kindred, and ready to doe him all seruice. This is the fashio[n] of the world, hee that is rich and in fauour, can neuer be poore oꝝ hungry foꝝ friendship, euery one will seme to loue him, euery one will imitate his fashions.



Then was a solemne feast held, Trumpets were sounded, Cornets winded, Shammes, and all Instruments warbled, and euery one cryed, Praised be Heauen foꝝ this glorious conquest. Reynard thanked them all kindly, and receiued them with great ioy and gladnesse : then asked their opinions whether hee shoulde geue the victoꝝ to the King oꝝ no : and Dame

Slopard

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Slopard said, Yes by all meanes Cousin, for it stand with your honour, nor may you denie it. And so (the Barthals going befoze) they went all to the King, guarding the for on euery side, all the Trumpets, Pipes and Minstrelsie sound, ing befoze him.



of Reynard the Fox.

When Reyard came before the King, he fell on his knees, and the King bad him stand up, and said to him: Reynard, you may well reioyce, for you haue wonne much honour this day, therefore here I discharge you, and let you free, to goe whither your owne will leades you, for all contentions I take vpon my selfe, and will haue it discust by the wisest of the Kingdome, as xne as he grims wounds shal be cured, at what time I will sen for you, and so p̄cede to iudgement.

My worthy and dread Lord (said the Foxe) I am well appayd with any thing that shall please you: yet when I came first to your Highnesse Court, there were many malicious persons which sought my life (whom I neuer injured) but they thought to overcome me, by ioyning with my enemies against me, and thinking the Wolfe had greater fauour then I with your Haicsty: this was the ground of their indignation, wherein they shewed their simplicity, not to alter the end which followed.

These men (my Lord) are like a great Kennell of Hounds, which once I saw standing at a Lords house on a dunghill, where they waited for such as should bring them meate, and none they saw a Hound come out of the Butchyn, which had thence brought a goodly rib of Beefe: but the Cooke pursuing him, threw hote scalding water after him, and scalded all his hinder parts: but notwithstanding away he went with his booty: but when his fellows perceined him, they called to him, and said: O how much art thou bound to the good Cooke which hath given thee that goodly Bone so well furnisht with flesh: but the Dogge replyed, You speake according to your knowledge, and praise me in such sort, as you see me before with the bone in my mouth: but if you please to looke vpon me behinde on my Buttocks, you shall finde how dearly I payed for it, and they beholding how he was scalded, and all the haire and skinn slayed from his hinder loynes: they began to be agast and amazed at his torment, neither would they any more of his fellowship, but fled and ranne away from him. In the same sort, my Lord, these false and unworthy Beasts, when they are made Lords, possesse their

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their desires, and are mighty and resolute: then doe they extort, pill and pole the poore and needy, and eate them vp like so many hunger-starued Hounds, for they are the dogges with bones in their mowthes, no man dare to meddle with them, but praise all their actions: no man dare offend them, nay, many assist and helpe them in their unlawfull actions, onely that they may lick their fingers, and be partakers of their extortions.

O my deare Lord) how can those men goe safely, which goe thus blindfold: or how can they expect but a shamefull fall, whose steps are so uncertaine: neither can any man pittie them when their workes are disclosed, but continuall curses and vphraidings follow them to the graue with destruction: many of these haue lost their haire (which is their friends) as the Hound did, and haue none left to couer their mischiefes, but all forsake them as the Hounds did the dogge which was scalded.

My gracious Lord, I beseech you remember this mozell example: and it will nothing impaire the greatnesse of your vertue, for doubtlesse many of these euill extorting creatures are vnder your subiection, both in Townes, Cities, and great Lords houses, who outface the poore, and sell away their freedoms and priuiledges, and threaten things vpon them, which they neuer knew, thought or imagined, and all to make vp the Common-wealthe of their owne particular profits: but the end of such are vilde, and heauen hath for them a iudgement: but of these errors I hope none shall iustly accuse me, nor any of my kindred, but we shall acquite vs nobly from the same, I feare creatures accusations, for I will euer be the for, though all my foes sweare to the contrary. My Lord, you I adore above all mortall creatures liuing, nor can any wise dome diuert me from you, but I will abide by you to the last gaspe, and though malice haue tolde your Highnesse the contrary, yet I haue euer disproued them, and so will doe to the last moment.

of Reynard the Fox.

CHAP. 12.

How the King forgaue the Foxe all things, and made him the greatest in his Land, and of his noble returne home with all his Kindred.

The King said: Reynard, you are one that owe me homage and fealty, and I hope I shall euer enjoy it; And for



The pleasant History

your Service, here I make you one of the Lords of my prime Counsaile. Take heede you doe not any thing unworthily, for here I place you in all your power and Authority as formerly you were, hoping you will administer Justice equally and truly. For as long as you employ your wit unto vertuous actions, so long the Court cannot misse you: for you are a Starre whose light enlargeth all other, especially in finding out mischiefs, and preventing them. Therefore remember the word all you your selfe tolde me, and be a lover of Truth and equity. From henceforth I will be governed by your wisdom, and there shall not breathe that creature in any Kingdom which shall doe you injury, but I will highly reuenge it. This you shall proclaim through all the Nation, and be the chiefest Governour in the same, for the Office of high Bailiffe here I freely bestow upon you, and I know you may reape great honour thereby.

All Reynards friends and kindred humbly thanked the King, but he tolde them it was much short of that he intended to doe for their sakes: and aduised them all to admonish him, to be carefull of his faith and loyalty. The said Dame Ruke-uaw, Beloue it my Lord, we will not faile in that point, neither feare you the contrary: For should he proue otherwise, we would all renounce him. Then the King also thanked the King with faire and courteous words, saying: (my gracious Lord) I am not worthy of these high honours you doe me: yet will euer study with my service how to deserue them: For shall my best counsaile at any time be wanting. And this said, he tooke his humble leaue of the King, and so departed with the rest of his friends and kindred.

Now whilst these passages hapned, Bruine the Beare, Tybert the Cat, and Arsewinde and her Childzen, with the rest of their Linage, drew the Wolfe out of the field, and laide him upon soft Litter and Hay, and couered him all ouer very warme and dressed his wounds, which were to the number of fve and twenty, by the helpe of many skilfull Leeches and Surgeons. His sicknes and weaknes was so great, that his feeling was lost: but they rubbed and chased him on the temples

of Reynard the Fox.



The Morall

By these Hon-
ors done to
the Fox by the
Lyon, is shew-
ed that fel-
dome ene
good fortune
cometh with-
out another,
and hee that
hath once at-
chieued Fame,
& renowne,
to him will
the world flie
and dignity
on dignity
shall bee hea-
ped vpo him,
as on the con-
trary part he
that is once
fallen either
in state or re-
putation, it is
a thing of
much difficul-
ty to see him

aduauced with
out a mira-
cle. For world-
ly men are
saide to bee
like Dogges,
which when
Amongst

ples and vnder the eyes, till he leapt out of his swound, and
howled so lowde that all were amayed which heard him: But
the Physicians gaue him Cordials to drinke, and a dormiture
or potion to make him sleepe. And then comforted his wife
telling her there was no danger or perill of his life: So the
Court brake vp, and euery Beast returned to his owne home.

The pleasant History

one of their
owne kinde is
downe, all the
rest will fall
upon him and
worry him.

But wisemen
or godd-men
(for both are
scarce) are said
to be like Hog
ges, which
when one of
their kind is
downe all the
rest will pre-
sently asist &
helpe him.

For any thing
else contained
in this Chap-
ter, it is either
Moralized by
the speeches
of the Foxe or
else by the
Author.

Amongst the rest Reynard the Foxe toke his leaue of the King and Quene, who desired him not to be long absent from them. To whom he answered, that hee would be euer ready at their Service as was his bounden duty, and not himselfe alone, but all his friends and kindred also. And so begging licence of his Maiesty in all solemne manner and with faire speech, hee departed from the Court.



of Reynard the Fox.

Was neuer creature that euer flattered biquet or to better purpose, for he that could do the like might be a Master of the eighth liberall Science. And no Lord whether Spirituall or Temporall but would haue an eare open for his Language. For dyed he without issue, for he hath Children almost in all places.

And indeede he that hath no allyance to him in the Art of dissimulation, shall hardy prosper as the world goeth: Though he want his heyre, yet if he haue his heart, it is enough to make him accepted.

Plaine dealing is now an erile, and Couetousnes & fraude haue taken possession of his Tenciments: not the Popes Palace: the Courts of Emperours, Kings and Princes, cannot be examed of this error.

Onely is now growne the onely fauorite of the times, the very Church I doll, and the Countrey worship: I can purchase all thinges, defend all thinges, and confound all thinges: And mad men trauaile ouer the world, to gaine this folly, this fashion: Who is not a true here is but a Beast of base estimation.

This is the worlds custome, and what will become of the vse, the wise can hardly Iudge or imagine: Onely that these hainous sinnes of falshood, Theft, Murther and Ambition, can neuer walke but hand in hand with Iudgement: from which I heartily pray that the hand of the Highest will defend vs, and make vs walke in those pathes which shall be suitable to vertue and piety. With which I conclude, since these misdoeds are no fit Theame for me to treat of, Since at the last day every one is sure to giue an account for his owne burthen.

With Reynard all his friends and kinsfolks to the number of forty, take their leaue of the King and went away with the fore, who was no little glad creature that he had sped so well, and so farre in the Kings fauour: for now he had power enough to aduance whome he pleased, and pull downe any that enuyed his fortune.

The pleasant History

After some travell the Fore and all his friends came to his
Borough or Castle of Malepardus, where every one (in noble
and corteous manner) tooke leaue of other, and Reynard did



to every one of them great reverence and thanked them for the
loue and honour hee had receiued from them, protesting euer
more to remaine their faithfull seruant, and to second them in
all

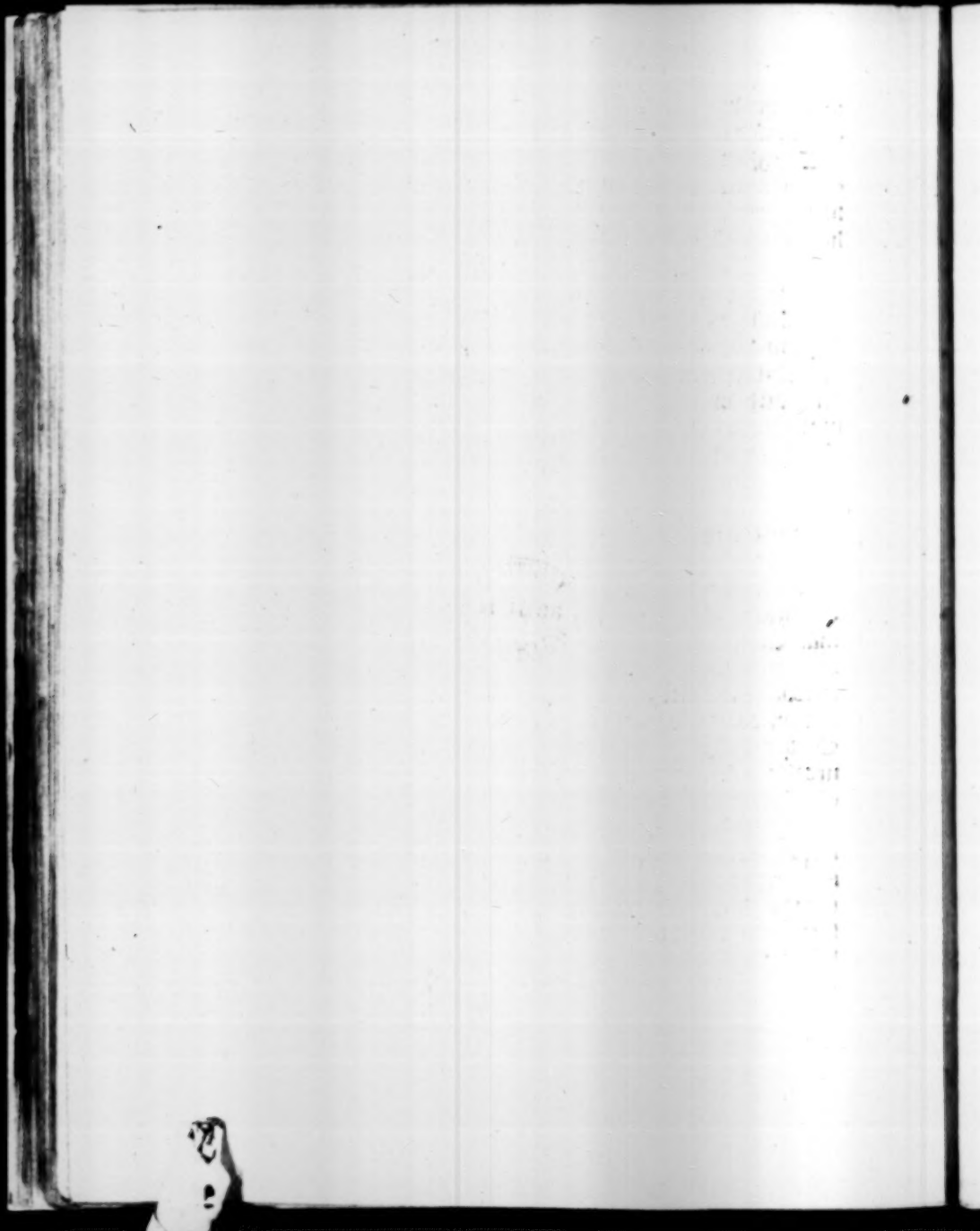
of Reynard the Fox.

all things wherein his life oꝝ goods might be auailable vnto them : and so shooke hands and departed.

The fore went in to Dame Ermelin his Wife, who welcommed him with great tendernes: And to her and her Children, he related at large all the wonders which had befallen him at the Court and mist no tittle oꝝ circumstance therein. Then grew they proude that his Fortune was so excellent: and the fore spent his dayes from thencefoꝛth (with his Wife and Children) in great ioy and contentement.

Now whosoever shall relate vnto you (of the fore) more oꝝ lesse then you haue heard : I would not wish you to build any faith vpon his reports. Specially this which you haue already heard oꝝ read, you may beleeue at your best pleasure: If any refuse, he shall notwithstanding be accounted an Hereticke, since hee that onely saw it, may best giue credit vnto it, and yet many in this world beleeue the things they haue not seene.

Besides, there are many Playes both Comick and Morall, which figure out things that neuer were, onely to make vse and benefit of the example, That men may thereby the better shun Vice, and pursue Vertues. In like manner, this Booke, though it containe but matter of Jest and sport, yet if he like seriously therein, he may happily finde much Morall matter and wisdom, worthy his consideration. Goodnes nor any Good man shall he finde in it disreputed, for all things are generally spoke, and every man may take his owne part as his Conscience shall instruct him: If any finde himselfe too much oppressed, let him shake it off with amendment: If any be cleare, let him holde on his path, and auoyde stumbling: And if any take causelesse distaste oꝝ offence, let him not blame me but the fore, for it is onely his language. But if all things sute to my wisht imaginations, I shall then be encouraged to salute the world with a Second part, clad in some neater English, deeper matter, and if not more, yet euery whit as pleasant Morals.



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AT&T

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1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

THE CORPUS CHRISTI

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1. A. Grubbs and the other scientists

to the Court.

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